

Thayer's

# Wild Bunch IV

By J E Ted Thayer

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Published by J E Ted Thayer**

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**Note:** Un-credited items J E Ted Thayer *Globe* Various

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### PREFACE

**January 1, 2017**

<http://www.tedthayer.com/default.html>

**TedThayer.com**



**J E Ted Thayer | 01-01-2017**

### **THIS Book ...**

is a compilation of The Wild Bunch commentaries published via email broadcast and on Facebook pretty much every Monday and Thursday as well as occasionally on the TedThayer.com website in 2017.

As I stated in the original *Wild Bunch*, I love to write, so I save most of my stuff. This exercise became an easy way to write some history and keep it safe. To me, it's interesting to see how facts and opinions change over time.

Each pair of chapters represents a week's offering without the website banner shown above. On June 16<sup>th</sup> last year we switched to two weekly columns because it was nearing the close of another election cycle. We'll keep it a two per week and see how it goes. What a year! Boy, was it! How do you think 2017 will turn out? Stay tuned. We'll see.

Enjoy your reading, troops.

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January 2, 2017

### Well, Happy New Year!

- Had a few beers. Followed by a few cocktails. Followed by a few shots. Because I had the sense to know I was over the limit, I decided to do what I have never done before: I took a cab home. Sure enough, there was a police road block, but since it was a cab, they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident.

This was both a great relief and a surprise because I had never driven a cab before!

I don't even know where I got it!

Now that it's in my garage, I don't know what to do with it!

(Got that off FaceBook. **PSYCH!!!**)

I'm so looking forward to this year ... it has so much to offer. Just think – we're getting a new President and the Stock Market is offering a magnificent challenge, not just for American investors, but also for the other markets around the world.

- On Friday, January 20th, we'll experience an inauguration, the likes of which has not been seen before in American history! Close friends say that **Donald Trump** knows how to throw a party and not long after his election he promised to make it a memorable event.

**Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah** of **Brunei** threw what was undoubtedly the *most expensive party* of all time, coming in at some \$27 million. Sultan Haji went very large for his 50th



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birthday bash. He flew in **Michael Jackson** at a cost of some \$16 million, and didn't even watch him perform! Haji had 10,000 guests in 1996. He fed them caviar and champagne.

Perhaps the *greatest party* ever thrown was at *Camp du Drap d'Or*, the "Field of the Cloth of Gold" in France. It lasted the two-and-a-half weeks following Thursday, June 8th, 1520 when **King Henry VIII** of England and France's **King Francis I** celebrated a truce between their two warring nations.

The first day, **Hall's Chronicle** recounts, "Thursday 8 June being Corpus Christi day, Henry and the French king Francis I, met in a valley called the Golden Dale which lay midway between Guisnes and Arde where the French king had been staying. In this valley Henry pitched his marquee made of cloth of gold near where a banquet had been prepared. His Grace was accompanied by 500 horsemen and 3,000 foot soldiers, and the French King had a similar number of each."

According to **Wikipedia**, "Some idea of the size of Henry's following may be gathered from the fact that in one month 2200 sheep and other viandes [foodstuffs] in a similar proportion were consumed. In the fields beyond the castle [erected for the occasion], 2800 tents were erected for less distinguished visitors."

More from **Wikipedia**, "The days were taken up with tournaments, in which both kings took part. There were banquets in which the kings entertained each other's queens. The many other entertainments included archery displays and wrestling between Breton and Cornish wrestlers."

However, in the midst of the tournaments and feasting and celebrations the two monarchs had a dispute, which they agreed would be settled by a wrestling match. King Henry

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lost the match and the two went their separate ways after Mass on June 24th.

It wasn't much more than a couple of months before King Henry went back on his word and resumed the war with France!

- Doomsayers have been predicting a market crash of upwards of 80% this year – that would mean a new low for the Dow of around 4,000 – imagine what that would do for your 401k! Don't say you weren't warned ... for several years, every seller of Gold and Silver has been pitching a massive dollar devaluation and market decline coupled with equally massive increases in the value of precious metals and metals stocks.

Here is a link to a great article about the 1929 stock market crash. It's from PBS.com:

<http://www.pbs.org/fmc/timeline/estockmkcrash.htm>

Meanwhile, I snagged this from **The Sovereign Investor**:

"Several noted economists and distinguished investors are warning of a stock market crash.

**"Jim Rogers**, who founded the **Quantum Fund** with **George Soros**, went apocalyptic when he said, 'A \$68 trillion *Biblical* collapse is poised to wipe out millions of Americans.'

**"Mark Faber**, Dr. Doom himself, recently told **CNBC** that 'investors are on the Titanic' and stocks are about to 'endure a gut-wrenching drop that would rival the greatest crashes in stock market history.'

"And the prophetic economist **Andrew Smithers** warns, 'U.S. stocks are now about 80% overvalued.'

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"Smithers backs up his prediction using a ratio which proves that the only time in history stocks were this risky was 1929 and 1999. And we all know what happened next. Stocks fell by 89% and 50%, respectively.

"Even the **Royal Bank of Scotland** says the markets are flashing stress alerts akin to the 2008 crisis. They told their clients to 'Sell Everything' because 'in a crowded hall, the exit doors are small.'

"Blue chip stocks like **Apple**, **Microsoft**, and **IBM** will plunge.

"But there is one distinct warning that should send chills down your spine ... that of **James Dale Davidson**. Davidson is the famed economist who correctly predicted the collapse of 1999 and 2007.

"Davidson now warns, 'There are three key economic indicators screaming SELL. They don't imply that a 50% collapse is looming – it's already at our doorstep.'"

I'm not going to lose sleep over any of that stuff ... there are those who look at it differently, including **Tyler Durden** writing for **Zero Hedge**: For evidence that the market bears are all but extinct look no further than the latest letter from erstwhile bear **Bob Janjuah**, in which the **Nomura** strategist throws in the towel in a near-term correction and predicts that "the trends over H1 2017 should be higher (especially US) equities and yields, steeper curves, a stronger USD, and mixed performance in credit (especially in the IG sphere) and EM. Equity markets in particular are initially likely to ignore the inflation issue and focus on the idea that Donald Trump can overnight rebuild the US economy into a *4-5% nominal GDP* limo, vs. the underlying current sense of a *3% and falling fast* jalopy. So for me, most likely over the middle two

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quarters of 2017, I can see the **S&P 500** cash index up at 2450 +/- 50 points, with the **Nasdaq** weakest and the **Dow** strongest of the big three US indices."

- Well, don't that just oil yer crank?

Happy New Year, people. Don't spend it all in one place!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

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Thursday, January 5, 2017

### What Happened?

Last year, I wrote a number of things that turned out to be prophetic. Some samples:

#### Crazy Uncle Joe 06-27-2016

What I heard out there in our neighborhoods this summer was a yearning from all sides for a President like **Joe Biden**. He has the "just like us" qualities that attract huge crowds to Trump yet he shares the "insider" know-how of Mrs. Clinton. He understands the trials and tribulations of the young people attracted to **Bernie Sanders**. Joe Biden combines all the attributes of the other candidates with the hands-on experience of a real pro - and "the folks" get it.

#### The Survey 09-12-2016

One of the questions in the [donaldjtrump.com] email/online survey was about presentation. "Which do you want to see as the Trump campaign moves forward: (A) Negative attacks against Hillary Clinton, (B) Positive messages about the future of America, (C) No preference, or (D) Other." I chose (D) Other and submitted a comment that went something like this: *I want this negative stuff to stop! It's turning off the electorate. Part of what turned the voters on during the Republican Primary was Trump's positive, politically-incorrect presentation in the plain language they speak out on the golf course or down at the local bar. (Bernie didn't do such a bad job, himself!) Trash-talk about Clinton does nobody any good because every mention of her is just like free advertising. Let the MSN do that stuff ... and they will - count on it! The most important point is to press the forward-looking issues and solutions that will benefit the vast majority of all Americans. The campaign makes progress every time*

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*ol' Ron Reagan's positive view of America surfaces. Try to keep that in mind.*

### **Here To Help 10-03-2016**

*"Hi, I'm from the government, and we're here to help."*

President **Ronald Reagan** included those ten words in his July 28, 1988 remarks to representatives of the **Future Farmers of America** in the old Executive Office Building. They accurately define both Liberal and Conservative principles. On the one hand, the greeting states succinctly the Liberal approach to governance. On the other hand, it's the Conservative's tongue-in-cheek antithesis of the Liberal stance.

### **Little People 10-13-2016**

The little people include the blue-collar worker just barely getting by while helplessly watching his job slowly regulated out of existence; the small business struggling to make ends meet as egregious rules slowly squeeze its life away, even as it valiantly competes with the giant Wal Mart just down the street; the new mom, fresh out of college, who can't find work that will pay enough for baby-food and clothing; the elderly couple whose Social Security hasn't kept up with the cost of three meals a day and are barely making it on one; the Viet-Vet clinging to today while trying to forget yesterday and having little expectation for tomorrow; the guy who was just laid off because his company is moving away; and the construction worker who can't get to the next job because there isn't one ...

### **Had Enough 10-13-2016**

The little people are the backbone of our country, the strength and support of the American way of life. The little people can't understand why they are being burdened more and more each day by regulations from the elites ensconced in Washington and by rules imposed by the bureaucrats that infest our cities, counties and states. The little people live in

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the United States of America and they are tough as nails and proud - but they've just about had it. They're a lot like the folks in Britain who finally had enough and voted to leave the European Union.

### **Afraid 10-24-2016**

What surprises me is the quantity of people that work behind counters who express genuine concern for the future of the country. Most are worried that Trump will loose. Not that Clinton will win - that Trump will loose!

There are many reasons **Hillary Clinton** lost the election to **Donald Trump**.

**First** and foremost, she failed to visit the states that have always voted Blue. Clinton was AOL much of the time. She campaigned in only 17 of the 50 states, missing some of the most important. New York and California were in the bag from the get-go if all she wanted was the popular vote, but failing to go for the gold - The Electoral College - was an incredibly stupid, amateur mistake that a thirty-some-odd-year veteran of American politics should not have allowed to happen. When it comes to vote-getting, there cannot be any stone left un-turned. **GQ's Drew Magary** wrote in his normally very liberal publication why Mrs. Clinton was included as one of the Least-Influential People in America. *"Would it have killed you to visit Wisconsin, Hillary? I know it's full of fat people and bad pretzels, but sometimes you gotta come out of your fundraising hole and kiss some babies."* Magary was incredulous that Clinton lost a state that hadn't voted for a Republican president since Ronald Reagan in 1984. Clinton was in good company: Anthony Weiner, Jeb Bush & Family, Tim Kaine and Matt Lauer, to name a few.

**Second**, Hillary lost sight of the issues - instead, she wasted time and energy concentrating on trash-talking Trump and his

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collection of "sexist, intolerant, xenophobic, homophobic, corrupt, islamapobic, racist, bigoted, basket of deplorables." She was so consistent with her fusillades at Trump that most people - from both parties - just tuned it out and labeled it "static." There is good reason to believe that the skimpy crowds at her rallies were the result of her tacky attacks and lack of substance. Most of her speeches were by rote - hamburgers instead of red meat! Except for the debates, real discussion of critical issues was missing from the menu. Clinton's routine of disingenuousness, name-calling and negativity simply turned people off. And it didn't help much that she routinely avoided close-up media coverage & press conferences.

**Finally**, Mrs. Clinton was under continuous government investigation and she failed to address the problem by blaming everyone else but herself - including the **RNC**, the Congress, the **CIA**, the **FBI**, Donald Trump himself, **Wikileaks**, and even Russian President **Vladimir Putin**. She purposefully used evasive language to deflect salient questions about her troubles. Of course, it didn't help that the FBI was publicly on and off of its investigation(s) - twice - first in front of the Congress and then the press! All Clinton ever had to do was refuse any comment about any of it because "it" was under investigation, exactly what the FBI was supposed (but failed) to do.

**Glenn Beck** ran an item on **TheBlaze** Christmas Eve that nailed my prophecy. Vice President **Joe Biden**, in an interview with the **L.A. Times** said he realized Donald Trump would defeat Hillary Clinton after watching a Trump rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, in October.

"'Son of a gun. We may lose this election,' Biden told the Times, recounting his reaction after watching the rally from his White House office. 'They're all the people I grew up



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with. They're their kids. And they're not racist. They're not sexist. But we didn't talk to them,' the vice president added.

"Reflecting on Trump's connection with Americans throughout his campaign, and during that Pennsylvania rally in October, Biden attempted to diagnose Democrats' inability to connect with middle America. 'My dad used to have an expression.' He said, 'I don't expect the government to solve my problems. But I expect them to understand it,' Biden said, adding that he doesn't believe Democrats are positioning themselves to 'understand' the struggles of 'an awful lot of people. I was trying to be as tactful as I could in making it clear that I thought we constantly made a mistake of not speaking to the fears, aspirations, concerns of middle class people.'"

**Ricochet.com** editor **Jon Gabriel** wrote in an article December 29th titled *The Election Was Not Hacked*, "The harsh reality is this: Hillary Clinton is the worst presidential nominee in American history. And if the media is actually concerned about fake news, they will drop the election hacking lie and just admit that their candidate was a disaster."

So, when you add it all up, Donald Trump won because he "read" the electorate correctly, reviled the mainstream media for its "dishonesty", used social media effectively, visited every nook and cranny of the states that would give him the Electoral College, and put on rallies so huge that the MSM had to cover them to see what was coming next.

Trump won the presidential election because the mainstream media concentrated on his rhetoric and ignored the message, while voters embraced his message and ignored the rhetoric.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

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**Monday, January 9, 2017**

### **Dow hits 20,000 - NOT!**

All day last Friday the Dow flirted with the highest point ever ... investors ran it up over 90 points to 19,997 and that's where it began hovering. Up 97 points one minute, 85 the next. Flirting around 19,995.

On Fox Business Channel, Neil Cavuto was interviewing the experts and crowing that he could be the one to host the celebration. Actually he was gloating! Stewart Varney had been rooting for the 20,000 mark for two weeks - even preparing a special celebration presentation for the occasion.

The last big run-up was followed by a sell-off. Cavuto's guest Charlie Gasparino noted that a selloff is not likely when the market breaks 20,000. That, he said, probably won't happen until after the Inauguration, just as it did after President Obama's Inauguration.

About 12:30 there was a rousing cheer from the floor of the stock exchange behind a reporter describing the day's goings-on. Anchorman Cavuto asked what all the noise was about because the Dow had yet to hit the magic 20,000 level. The reporter said they were all cheering because the pizza man had finally arrived!

It appeared that perhaps Cavuto was going to get the coveted Dow 20,000 prize, but no ... it was not to be! The Dow closed the week at 19,963.

While all the hubbub was happening on the stock exchange floor, the Congress was going through the process of certifying the results from the Electoral College with Vice-

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President (Senate President) Joe Biden at the helm and House Speaker Paul Ryan seated close by.

Although a number of members of the House rose to object to the authenticity of some of the ballots, Biden ruled their objections out of order. An objection is required to be in writing, signed by the House member submitting the document as well as one Senator. Since in each instance, no Senator had been convinced to sign, the Senate President disallowed them. In addition, he admonished objectors who wanted to argue the point that debate is not allowed during a joint Session of Congress. "It is over", he said - and congress roared their approval!

Toward the end of the certification of the ballots by each state, there were disturbances in the Gallery as protesters - three of them - stood one at a time and yelled their objections. At Biden's urging they were forcefully removed by the Sergeant at Arms. Hillary Clinton received 227 votes certified by the Electoral College. Donald J. Trump collected 304, officially making him the 45th President of the United States. Trump will be sworn in a week from Friday.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, January 12, 2017

## Reporting vs. Storytelling

The debacle at the Trump news conference yesterday about a story broken by CNN was the result of pseudo-journalists at **BuzzFeed** providing fake news information. BuzzFeed even admitted in one paragraph that they had not verified its truth. To quote the Blog, "*A dossier making explosive — but unverified — allegations that the Russian government has been 'cultivating, supporting and assisting' President-elect Donald Trump for years and gained compromising information about him has been circulating among elected officials, intelligence agents, and journalists for weeks.*" That a major news organization would publish an admittedly uncorroborated story from an internet blog is unbelievable. President-elect Trump would not take a question from a CNN reporter, exclaiming, "You are fake news."

News reporting involves writing about the who, what, when, where and why of an event. A news report tells in the simplest most terse language what happened, when and where it happened, to whom, and hopefully why it happened. Sometimes a single line tells all that needs to be reported. Generally-speaking few, if any, adjectives, adjunctive phrases or adverbs are used. For instance:

*The local Manager (who) appeared at McDonald's (where) yesterday afternoon at 3:30 (when) to meet with employees (what) about wage issues (why).*

Of course, we all know this story is a fake. Writing a straight news story is the mere listing of the four or five "W"s - just the unvarnished facts. Four or five phrases are plugged together to create an opening sentence. Details can follow in

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one or more short sentences. There is one key thing that many news people lately have forgotten: documentation of the facts - corroboration.

The **Associated Press** (AP) Stylebook was the newsman's bible not long ago. According to **Wikipedia**, "the first publicly available edition of the book was published in 1953 and was updated biennially over the next 20 years. Today the AP Stylebook is updated annually (usually in June). [The publication is] an English grammar style and usage guide created by American journalists working for or connected with the Associated Press over the last century to standardize mass communications. It is a guide for grammar, punctuation and principles of reporting, including many definitions and rules for usage as well as styles for capitalization, abbreviation, spelling and numerals." Over the last few decades, however, news reporters' style has been degraded and replaced gradually to blend subject matter, color, opinion and political leanings into what would have been unacceptable before the turn of the Century.

Today's journalists might report the McDonald's story like this:

*The Manager of the local McDonald's found himself up to his neck in angry employees yesterday afternoon. Police were summoned to the fast food outlet shortly after 3:30pm when employees began threatening their boss with bodily harm if the company wouldn't cave in to their demands for \$15.00 per hour. McDonald's outlets nation-wide have not responded favorably to Union activities pressing for a minimum wage of fifteen dollars.*

There you have it ... a modern activist news story. It's all there ... colorful adjectives, sympathy, a propensity to lean progressive, etc. And no sources.

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There was an opinion piece published a little over a week ago by the **Wall Street Journal's James Taranto** that got into this subject of reporter style and why the press is held in such low esteem these days.

"Our advice to journalists who wish to improve the quality of their trade would be to lose their self-importance, overcome the temptation to pose as (or bow to) authority figures, and focus on the basic function of journalism, which is *to tell stories*. Journalists are not arbiters of truth; we are, unlike fiction writers (or for that matter politicians), *constrained* by the truth. But fiction writers bear the heavier burden of making their stories believable.

"When you think about journalism in this way, its failure in 2016 becomes very simple to understand. Whether you see Trump as a hero or a goat - or something in between, which is our still-tentative view - his unlikely ascension to the presidency was a hell of a story. Most journalists missed the story because they were too caught up in defending a system of cultural authority of which they had foolishly allowed themselves to become an integral part."

Unlike news reporting, writing a column requires a comfort with spinning yarns. Creating a story requires a subject engaged in some sort of activity, research, background development, and some degree of what I like to call wordcraftsmanship. The McDonald's news lines above can be enhanced with some creative use of color to form a column or opinion piece.

*In the middle of the afternoon yesterday, the besieged local McDonald's Manager was summoned by a number of angry employees who demanded time to discuss the prospects of a \$15 minimum wage. According to the Sheriff's Department, he wasn't the only one summoned - they had to call the cops a*

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*little after 3:30 because at least one of the employees threatened the manager with bodily injury if he didn't approve pay increases. The New York Times has reported that McDonald's employees across the country have staged demonstrations backed by Union labor bosses to press for higher wages of at least fifteen dollars an hour. So far, McDonald's has held the line, and in a few facilities pushed back, replacing some employees with kiosks.*

I kinda like that story - but that's all it is. Not news. Just a story. But it has all the elements.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Monday, January 16, 2017

### Si, Se Puede!

It was **Caesar Chavez** who coined the phrase "Si, se puede" back in 1972 as the motto of the **United Farm Workers**. (Actually, it was the UFW's co-founder Dolores Huerta during Chavez' 24 day fast in Phoenix, AZ.) The literal translation from Spanish to English is ***Yes, it can be done.*** Loosely translated it means **Yes, one can**. Those words were also the marching orders for throngs of Latinos across the Southwest during the Obama years. The meaning for the campaign Obama changed slightly, as catch-phrases do, to **Yes, We Can!**

Things have changed a lot since 1972. There was change in 2004 during the Illinois Democrat primary when Yes, We Can - broke out in the **Barack Obama** campaign. There was more of the slogan as Brown people gathered across the country to protest immigration reform in 2006. Obama continued to use the slogan in his campaign for president in 2008. The parting words of President Obama's 2017 Farewell Address were, "Yes, we can. Yes, we did. Yes, we can."

Things really changed in 2016 when **Donald Trump** won the Presidency. You remember the words Trump spoke when he declared as a GOP candidate for President. "They're murderers and rapists ..." and so forth. He was making the point that Hispanic thugs were in control of much of the worst kind of crime, not only in the United States, but also in much of Mexico and Central America. He fleshed out that charge over the Primary and General elections - making it clear to all who would listen that the bad guys have to go.



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Don't be surprised if Trump tries to fire up Hispanic communities all over the country with that slogan Yes, we can - **Si, se puede!**

The GOP, Dem and Washington elites scoffed and said it would never happen, but then Trump challenged the Black community to take charge of their neighborhoods and promised to help rid them of gangbangers and drugs and crime. "What the Hell do you have to loose?" he bellowed.

Trump made a commitment to America's inner cities and the folks who live there. He, with the help of the people closest to the action, will clean up crime in their communities. And the clarion call could well be Yes, we can - **Si, se puede!**

How are they going to do it, you ask? The same way they used to do it in the old South and the wild West! Tar and feathers! Can you imagine a group of neighbors approaching a drug dealer on a street corner late of an evening? A big dude steps up to the perp and says, "You and your pals need to get outa here. We don't want you hangin' out here anymore. If you're here tomorrow, we'll have a special treat for you. You ever heard of tar and feathers? Y'all move along now." Then, be they Black or Hispanic, they're walkin' away chanting Yes we can - **Si, se puede!** They're leaving the dude, even if he's packin' heat, wondering what just happened.

*Tarred and feathered and run out of town on a rail* wasn't quite like it happened - they didn't use hot asphalt and they didn't throw the person onto a railcar. **Wikipedia** describes tar and feathering thus:

"Tarring and feathering is a form of public humiliation used to enforce unofficial justice or revenge. It was used in feudal Europe and its colonies in the early modern period, as well as the early

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American frontier, mostly as a type of mob vengeance (compare Lynch law).

"In a typical tar-and-feathers attack, the mob's victim was stripped to the waist. [Pine] tar was either poured or painted onto the person while he was immobilized. Then the victim either had feathers thrown on him or was rolled around on a pile of feathers so that they stuck to the tar. Often, the victim was then paraded around town on a cart or wooden rail. The aim was to inflict enough pain and humiliation on a person to make him either conform his behavior to the mob's demands or be driven from town."

The worst examples of cops and communities failing to work together are the crime statistics out of Chicago. Last year there were more shootings in the Windy City than New York and Los Angeles combined! There were 4,368 shootings in Chicago last year. There were another 33 shootings with four dead in the first three days of this year. Again, **Wikipedia**: "Chicago was responsible for nearly half of 2016's increase in homicides in the US. [...] Chicago is considered the most gang infested city in the United States, with a population of over 100,000 active members from nearly 60 different factions. [Some of the blame can be placed on] Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** [who] disbanded the Chicago Police Department's anti-gang unit in 2012." According to the **Washington Post**, 2016 was the bloodiest in the city's history with 762 homicides included in those 4,368 shootings.

Last friday, the **US Justice Department** announced severe sanctions on Chicago, including the extraction of a consent decree from the city and its Police Department that forces it to more adequately train it's officers and improve the environment in which they work. Chicago's Police will

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operate under federal oversight until Justice is satisfied with improvements involving every aspect of law enforcement.

Crime control isn't just cops and robbers. It's cops and communities working together, setting examples for their children and shunning the bad guys. It's sad that all of America's Black and Latino communities haven't embraced that philosophy. Hopefully they'll do it soon in response to Trump's overtures, all the while chanting Yes, we can - **Si, se puede!**

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Thursday, January 19, 2017

### *On Time, Under Budget*

Over the years, I've become accustomed to excellence. There's something special about things that are made by craftsmen. They are the people intimately familiar with how to make things the old-fashioned way: Flawless quality, on time, and under budget.

My first pick-up truck came with a straight six, five-speed transmission, heater and AM radio. It was a Dodge 1/2-ton, a good one, spartan and guaranteed for five years or 50,000 miles. We bought it in Salinas, California. Then we moved to Tucson, Arizona. Montgomery Wards had to bend the long 5-on-the-floor stick to retrofit the new air conditioner. It was way cheaper than the Dodge Boys wanted and it worked very well. In the process, I got used to the idea of saving up to get the best.

My second pick-up was a Ford F-100 with the trim package, outside rear-view mirrors, dual tanks, dual tool-boxes, V-8 power, automatic transmission, slide-out spare, air conditioning, power steering, power brakes, AM/FM stereo, and cruise-control. The payments were about the same as they had been on the Dodge, which was used as the trade-in. The Dodge originally was Green, but I had it painted red after we moved to the Old Pueblo. The Ford was white over red over white, snappy-lookin'. It had every bell and whistle I ever wanted on a vehicle. Comfortable. Flawless. Hardly spartan.

I learned the vehicle lesson well. It took more than a quarter-century to build my home-entertainment system. Big-screen Vizio TV, satellite dishes for both TV and Internet with VoIP, United Audio record player, 160 watt Pioneer Stereo

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receiver/amplifier, 80 watt Fisher speaker systems, Emerson VCR/CD/DVD Player/recorder, remote-controlled 8-foot Mustang movie screen, InFocus video projector, 15 inch video monitors and fast AMD-driven monster gamer computer with some six tera-bytes of memory. It's better'n goin' to the movies because we have the choice of watching them on the TV or playing them on the computer and rolling down the movie screen. (Helps to have NetFlix.)

Assembling that mess took decades and lots of investigation to ferret out not so much the top-of-the-line, but top-quality equipment. With the exception of a good Spring cleaning every year, it all has worked flawlessly, as expected. Well worth the time and money.

I wanted to write this little screed to help my readers understand what we have in our new President of the United States. There are plenty out there who revile the guy who won the Electoral College vote hands down. And there are plenty of ignorant (or intolerant) folks that claim the Trump Presidency is "illegitimate" because he didn't win the popular vote. Take away California with its unwashed liberal throngs in the Los Angeles Basin and the Bay Area and he would have won that argument by almost five-million votes. But, be that as it may ...

This is the guy who prides himself with producing high-quality products on time and under budget. I have every reason to believe that this admirable ethic will, sooner or later, be etched into the minds of every employee of the federal government. This is the ethic that the Washington swamp-dwellers don't yet understand. But, they will.

Look, we all know the way government works. Take New York: Do you know how long it took from initial proposal to completion and opening of the first phase of the 2nd Avenue

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Subway? According to **TIME** magazine, it finally opened January 1st, 2017 after some 95 years! Phase One came in at \$4.5 Billion (yes, with a B!) for three stations and just two miles of track. The entire 8.5 miles of track was originally estimated at a Billion dollars. That would be \$5.7 Billion in today's dollars. Phase Two is projected to run some \$6 Billion to complete the remaining six-and-a-half miles of track, bringing the total cost of the project to \$10.5 Billion, over ten times the original estimate. The Metropolitan Transit Authority isn't known for its moderation, so there are those who won't be surprised to see the final cost closer to \$20 Billion.

We also know - or have heard - about the way government grows. The words etched into every bureaucrat's mind are "spend it or loose it." The thing is, if you don't spend every penny in your budget allocation this year, you have no way to justify any increase next year. So, every twelve months, toward the end of the fiscal year, department heads across the country order un-needed items from a trumped-up wish-list of capital equipment, office upgrades and extra supplies that won't be needed for three months or more. This is the "waste, fraud and abuse" that auditors find so hard to pin down. This is the five to ten per-cent built-in budget increase every year - year in and year out. 10% of the 2.65 Trillion dollar federal budget for 2017 is another 265 Billion dollars. What's more, the budget deficit for FY2017 is some \$443 Billion because spending will be more than the tax returns will total from you and me!

With the help of **Wikipedia**, let me help you understand how Donald Trump operates.

" New York's Wollman Rink was closed in 1980 for a proposed two years of renovations at \$9.1 million. Six years and \$13 million later, after the problem-plagued work was still not completed by the city, Donald

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Trump persuaded Mayor Ed Koch to let him complete the work in four months at \$2.5 million in order to have it open by the end of the year. Koch initially objected but later agreed to Trump's proposal when Trump offered to pay for the renovations himself with the stipulation that he be allowed to run the venue and an adjacent restaurant and use the profits to recoup his costs. Trump hired CIMCO, Canada's largest refrigeration company and the NHL's preferred rink equipment supplier, to complete the project. The rink reopened to the public on November 13, 1986, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and press conference attended by Koch and Trump, covered by national evening broadcast television news. Total cost of renovations by Trump came in under budget at \$2.25 million and two months ahead of schedule. [...] The Trump name is prominently displayed on the walls of the rink as well as on the Zamboni that maintains [it]."

Do you understand now where we're going with this?

Flawless quality, on or ahead of schedule, and under budget. Is there any reason we shouldn't require that from our government? The VA? HHS? EPA? IRS? DHS? FHA? There should be no lesser expectations - from we who foot the bill - than the highest quality of products and services ... most especially from our government.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, January 23, 2017**

### **34 vs. 45**

Last Friday, January 20th, the 45th President of the United States of America, **Donald J Trump** was inaugurated in front of a crowd that spilled over 12 blocks into the streets of Washington. It was estimated at some 1.2 million although the **Park Service** noted - unofficially - that they had only issued some 800,000 tickets. Observers noted that if the protesters were included, it would be closer to one million.

However, accurate estimates of National Mall crowd size generally aren't completed for a couple of weeks. 1.4 million attended **Barack Obama's** inauguration in 2009. According to **Nielson** Research, some 30.6 million TV viewers watched the Trump inauguration - 10 million more than watched President Barack Obama's second inauguration in 2013 - and 7.1 million less than watched Obama become President in 2009. Note that Nielson doesn't count people watching streaming internet content.

The fake news media was at it over the weekend with a story claiming that the first Obama crowd on the Mall was twice the size of the Trump's. The story used photos eight years apart to support the comparison. A piece of video shot on Friday from the podium behind the President, however, showed a sea of people rather than scattered as in the **New York Times** 2017 comparison photo. The President's Press Secretary, **Sean Spicer**, took the media to task in a special news conference Saturday, reporting that the actual crowd was closer to 1.4 million. That claim from the **White House** might just hold water because of two other faux reports - one from a **TIME** magazine reporter claiming Trump had the **Martin Luther King** bust removed from the Oval Office.



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And pool reporters filed a second story reporting the Administration replaced King's bust with that of **Winston Churchill**. In fact, the King bust stayed in place and was joined in the Oval Office with the Churchill bust which had been removed by former President Obama in 2009. News Secretary Spicer announced, *"There's been a lot of talk in the media about holding Donald Trump accountable. And I'm here to tell you that it goes two ways. We're going to hold the press accountable as well."* Trump himself ripped the Mainstream Media in front of 400 cheering CIA employees, calling the press corps *"dishonest."*

**Charles Krauthammer** called the President's Inaugural Address *"The Forgotten Man Speech."* It was about giving the power back to the people. The new President didn't talk about himself other than to state that *"I will never let you down."* Trump exclaimed that the power Washington has wielded is being returned to the people - where it belongs. In so many words, he put the world on notice by saying that the American people's riches have been taken away and redistributed to other countries around the world. *"The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes and then redistributed across the entire world. But that is the past. And now we are looking only to the future. We assembled here today are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in every foreign capital and in every hall of power. From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this moment on, it's going to be America First! America First! ... When America is united, America is totally un-stopable. ... You will never be ignored again,"* he told the throng. *"Your voice, your hopes, and your dreams, will define our American destiny. And your courage and goodness and love will forever guide us along the way. Together, we will make America strong again. We will make America wealthy again. We will make America proud again. We will make America safe again. And, yes, together, we will make America great*

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*again.*" He talked directly to the people about the people. And, what a spectacle it was!

Donald John Trump is the second U.S. president to be elected with no prior experience in government service. **Dwight David Eisenhower**, the 34th President of the United States, had no government experience when he took office in 1953. "Ike" had been a five-star General, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War II, about the most powerful position on earth at the time, but he had no clue what running a country was all about when he was elected President.

Eisenhower learned about the propensity of government to spend the future. In his final speech to the country in 1961 he said the following: *"As we peer into society's future, we -- you and I, and our government -- must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering, for our own ease and convenience, the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow."* Donald Trump will find out what Ike was talking about in short order. The Congress has already made a compact with the Devil when it comes to plunder. We will exceed \$20 Trillion in debt sooner than anyone can know and will be staring down the barrel of \$25 Trillion (\$25,000,000,000,000) before the next presidential election.

Part of the looming debt will be due to the rebuilding of our country's military. Ike had a handle on maintaining military might, also. He spoke of the military-industrial complex in his parting speech to the country: *"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the*

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*military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."*

By the time he left office Eisenhower could see into the future. One of the forces to be reckoned with by Donald Trump is the government's power to regulate every nook and cranny of American life. Science and industry are so tightly regulated that releasing the bindings of the rule-makers will prove more difficult than anyone can imagine. Ike foresaw the power of the government to shape the future: "*Today, the solitary inventor, tinkering in his shop, has been overshadowed by task forces of scientists in laboratories and testing fields. In the same fashion, the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution in the conduct of research. Partly because of the huge costs involved, a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity. For every old blackboard there are now hundreds of new electronic computers."*

Today those hundreds of computers have turned to millions, or even billions - so many that if they were turned off, the resulting inundation and conflagration could conceivably be the cause of millions of deaths across the world. Commerce, industry, transportation, communications, all brought to a halt for lack of computers. Think of it! Without desktops, laptops, iPads, iPhones and hundreds of other gadgets where would we be? Computer chips are in almost everything anymore - your car, your microwave - even your credit card! Mind you,

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a blackboard couldn't cook your dinner, even if you could find one.

It wasn't the transistor that changed the world, it was the government ... in particular, the NASA space program which created the need for miniaturization. Things have changed since Ike's time. The scientist's giant electronic mainframe computer in the sterile clean-room has been replaced and out-powered by miniaturization. Nobody knows how many angels will fit on the head of a pin, but a computer will!

The real test of President Donald J. Trump will doubtless be his ability to negotiate peace. Ike forecast the future in his farewell address, *"As one who has witnessed the horror and the lingering sadness of war -- as one who knows that another war could utterly destroy this civilization which has been so slowly and painfully built over thousands of years -- I wish I could say tonight that a lasting peace is in sight."* Will Trump be able to quell continuing unrest at home, eliminate ISIS from the face of the earth, and help bring a modicum of peace to the rest of the world? Only time will tell.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, January 26, 2017**

### Remaking the Democrats

As many of you already know, I've had my day as a political leader - as both Republican and Democrat. I even squandered some money on two unsuccessful runs for public office. So, maybe I can offer a few tips on how the Democrat Party can remake itself.

Back in the '70s, I was appointed a Republican Precinct Committeeman in Tucson. The party gave me a thick printout containing the names, addresses and phone numbers of every Republican in my Precinct. My job involved keeping tabs on all the folks who could be counted on to get to the polls and maybe take a neighbor along. It involved hand-delivering pamphlets and cards to every house, no matter the occupants' political persuasion, and registering the unwashed to vote. Part of the job required telephone canvassing - very time-consuming and boring - very much like door-to-door sales. Because I was a radio personality at the time, the party leaders asked me to be their communications guy. That position introduced me to the reason politics is such a dirty business ... and it truly is!

They call it ***elbow-rubbing*** - literally standing elbow to elbow in a cluster of muckety-mucks, sipping a drink of some sort. Yes, Republicans were super at sipping cocktails - great no-host fund-raisers! (Unlike the Democrats I ran with in the '90s who wouldn't allow alcohol at their functions and never seemed to have enough money.) Elbow-rubbing is a great way to become acquainted with the rich and powerful in the political world. It's also an easy way to find out how they roll. I remember meeting Vice President Spiro Agnew - he was a goofy-looking guy, but an incredible speaker. He had the Trunk and Tusk Club in stitches during an early Nixon

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campaign speech. He was also an accomplished elbow-rubber. Elbow-rubbing teaches its practitioners how to move easily - often forcefully - among groups of people from diverse backgrounds. Some are candidate-worshippers, some money-grubbers, some power-brokers, all are accomplished elbow-rubbers hoping that some little piece of fame will rub off on them. The objective is to meet, shake hands with, button-hole and pick the brain of a person with power. Getting the un-divided attention of a power-broker is a skill that successful elbow-rubbers learn as they move up through the ranks of a political party.

So is *working the room* - the way leaders learn to interact easily with a broad range of people. Those who work the room are the social butterflies. They are noticed the instant they enter. You've see famous people work a room ... they dive right in, moving quickly to shake hands and share a few words with one person and then move on to the next as the custom is repeated over and over again. Both Hillary Clinton and her husband Bill were skilled at working a room - the handshakes, bro hugs, air-kisses to the cheeks, open-mouth toothy smiles, knuckle-bumps and chin-pointing recognition at others across the room. I recall vividly watching Clint Eastwood, Janet Napolitano, Ronald Reagan, Donald Trump, and even deposed Arizona Governor Evan Meacham work a room. But, everybody's Crazy Uncle Joe Biden, the Vice President, was the absolute Master at a working the room. He was as smooth as glass!

Republicans like to elbow-rub and eat chicken and cold peas followed by cherries jubilee. The cost of a Republican dinner can run from ten bucks to as high as a thousand dollars a plate. Democrats are more partial to informal get-togethers with a modest cover-charge and a buffet. They also like to raffle things off and sell 50-50 tickets as fund-raisers. The GOP relies on wealthy contributors and white-collar workers

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to fill party coffers while Democrats typically rely on small donations from throngs of blue-collar contributors with larger contributions coming from mostly progressive businesses and Union organizations. Right there are a couple of problems for Dems: Trump won the blue collar vote and a chunk of the Union membership!

Depending on whether a party organization is rural, urban or suburban, the membership and operating parameters differ widely. Generally speaking, though, Republicans tend to be tightly organized and Democrats not so much. Republicans really like to socialize and have fun. Democrats are emotionally attached to their party but they are easily distracted.

To me, the most interesting part of the 2016 election cycle was the spread of voter registration. The largest bloc of voters were neither Democrat nor Republican. They were the Independents. A January article by the Gallup Poll noted that voter registration stood at 200,081,377. With a national population of roughly 324 million, that works out to something like 62% registered to vote - almost two-thirds of the populace!

Gallup found that people who identify as Independents (42%) outnumber those who identify as Democrats (29%) or Republicans (26%). The Dems were successful at turning out the vote and attracting Independents to their cause - over two million more voted Democrat than voted for the GOP. But Republican organizations were successful at obtaining majorities in the most counties across the country, thereby locking up the Electoral College, the National election and the Congress.

So, with all of the above for ammunition, how does the Democrat Party recover from what many pundits perceive as

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

a crushing defeat? How do you replant the seedlings of Democracy to grow a great forest of well-organized, involved and smart City and County Central Committees?

Well, here's what I think: Start at the beginning.

Do the majority of Americans still want the progressive agenda that has driven their country into the ditch over the last couple of decades? Find out. Get the Precinct Committeemen and women to go into their precincts and ask the question. Tell the people you want to rebuild the party. Tell them you need their opinions and their ideas. Then ask the question. Don't argue. Don't whine. Don't complain. Just ask the question and then shut up and listen. And take notes. It's not a discussion - it's an interview. Imagine you're Larry King, ask the question and, like he always does, sit back and listen. Here's the question: ***What do you think we need to do to win the local, regional and national elections in 2018?***

You'll get all sorts of answers - that's why you take notes. You'll need those notes to be able to identify a consensus - the answer given most often. You have to keep an open mind and forget any preconceived notions of your own. You'll need to compile a list of the answers from most common to least and be prepared to share them with Central Committees across the state and nation. Those answers will range from thoughtful to just plain crazy, but they will contain the solution to the problem.

Hillary Clinton lost the election to Donald Trump because, as I suggested a few weeks ago, she failed to visit all the states that have always voted Blue. She campaigned in only 17 of the 50 states, missing some of the most important. Her people weren't having fun and it showed. They were distracted and they let her off the hook. When it comes to vote-getting, there cannot be any stone left un-turned. New York and California



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were in the bag from the get-go if all she wanted was the popular vote, but failing to go for the gold - The Electoral College - was an incredibly stupid, amateur mistake that a thirty-year veteran of American politics should not have allowed to happen. In short, Clinton (and the DNC) failed to round up the cattle and shut them in the corral.

Maybe there is nothing that will guarantee a winning election cycle in 2018 - perhaps not even in 2020. Maybe many Democrats are so upset that they can't think of any sane way to get organized. But the fact is you've got to develop a consensus at the local level, share it regionally and make it work at the national level.

I would suggest developing a number of things:

1. Get kids involved - they are the source of tomorrow's leaders. They will gladly participate if they think it will be interesting and fun. Don't be afraid to ask. Go to schools and speak to assemblies and civics or social studies classes. Help them learn how American elections work. Get help from the administrators because teachers just love this sort of thing.
2. Get organized. Build a tight-knit organization with specific levels of responsibility. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance from the state organization and the national organization. You'll need to elect a Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as well as a few spark-plugs who can handle manual labor and interface with neighborhoods and the Precinct Committeemen.
3. Develop a fundraising system that will attract sufficient income to provide adequate office space and

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

the infrastructure to support it. Again, don't be afraid to ask for help. From Unions and big business, both local and regional - you don't get the money if you don't ask. Take a cue from the Republicans - advertise several dinners each year with prominent speakers and no-host bar.

4. Become involved in the community. Develop a series of events that will happen every two weeks or so, year 'round. Dances for kids and adults. A carnival. Participate in parades. Do roadside cleanups. Throw a concert with local bands. Have a booth at every public event. Be visible at every celebration. Have a few dinners to honor top students and community elders.

5. Get the members of the political organization as involved as the members of the local car club and motorcycle club, the folks that support the Little League, the soccer moms, the vendors at the Farmers' Market and people at the swap meet. Instead of purely political make sure to include social and fraternal activities ... make it fun to be participating in the political process.

6. Get local and regional elected officials involved. You need them as much as they need you. You can't replace Republican office-holders unless you have the help and cooperation of the already elected Democrats. It helps everyone a whole lot if you can make good friends of your elected city and county officials. As with every other aspect, nothing happens if you don't ask.

7. Identify candidates who are leaders. The business community, fraternal organizations and service clubs

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are rich with candidate material. The Rotary, Optimist and Kiwanis clubs; The American Legion and the VFW; The Elk and Masonic Lodges and the Knights of Columbus.

8. Donald Trump showed the world that politics can be fun. Those tens of thousands that attended his rallies had a ball! Why not make it so much fun to belong to the Democrat Party that people want to attend meetings and promote the cause in their neighborhoods? You know, fun is infectious. Show the whole world how much fun it can be to be a Democrat!

The object lesson here for all local and regional organizations is (or should be): Plan and execute every aspect of the electoral process, let nothing stand in the way and make it a stone-cold blast! You'll start winning elections again.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, January 30, 2017**

Whut the ???

Last week David Limbaugh wrote a column condemning the mainstream media and praising President Trump. I really like one of the paragraphs in his offering:

"With his business and leadership skills and his impatience for bureaucratic and Beltway inertia, Trump could make a significant positive difference in this country – and more quickly than we've been accustomed to expect from Republican politicians."

The reason I like that is because Limbaugh recognizes the difference between the ways business and government get things done.

You see, bureaucrats and elected officials have always been afraid of the possible consequences should they make a mistake, so they drag their feet. Good business practice says to spend some time focused on an objective, plan a straightforward way to accomplish it, and then execute it. No nonsense - no trepidation - just do it! Mistakes will happen. They always do; why do you think Murphy's Law came into being: ***Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.***

Bureaucrats fear error. Business people do not. A mistake by a bureaucrat can have employment consequences or, Heaven forbid, a write-up. For an experienced businessman, a mistake is just another learning experience; fix it and get on with the job!

Accepting ***caca pasa*** is how most successful businesspeople prosper. The No Fear clothing line created in 1989 was a very successful endeavor by Mark Simo, Brian Simo, and Marty

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Moates, three Carlsbad CA guys who knew that young people would appreciate the premise. They knew it was a risky business, making logo tee shirts, but they had a great 22 year run from 1989 to 2011.

Any business that makes it past two years can be considered a success - those that do make it can last fifteen to twenty years or more. There are so many pitfalls in business and markets change so quickly that staying competitive is always the biggest challenge. Government, on the other hand, is not faced with competition so fluidity is generally not a consideration. This is one of the reasons it takes government bureaucrats so much time to get things done. With no competition there's no need to stay on your toes, no need for speed, more time for contemplation.

It wouldn't matter if the President was Donald Trump, Mark Zuckerberg or Warren Buffett, they all have the same business acumen. They are all skilled at making things happen. Trump's choices for his cabinet members are cut from the same cloth: They're smart, accomplished, experienced in the wily ways of the world, know how to deal with governments and bureaucracies, and their individual wealth speaks clearly to their historic skills and effectivity.

There is no doubt that things will change very quickly when the Cabinet finally gets the go-ahead from the Congress. Here's hoping the Congress and the bureaucracy will get the message and get with the program.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, February 2, 2017**

### Navigable Waters

Did you know that dry washes in the southwest are navigable waters? So are creeks that only run when it rains. The Army Corps of Engineers, in concert with the EPA, declared that pretty much any place that water appears falls under their jurisdiction as navigable waters. President Obama backed that up with an Executive Order. Let's take a look at the US Code:

#### **33 CFR 329.4 General definition.**

Navigable waters of the United States are those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. A determination of navigability, once made, applies laterally over the entire surface of the waterbody, and is not extinguished by later actions or events which impede or destroy navigable capacity.

Now that's about as straightforward as any definition, but where does it say anything about dry creeks and washes or standing water?

Well, the EPA issued rulemaking that made dry creeks and washes part of its jurisdiction.

In September of 2014 House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy wrote, "Unnecessary regulations' are nearly synonymous with 'bureaucracy,' but there are times when even the Washington bureaucracy is surprising. When the Supreme Court told the EPA that it only had jurisdiction over 'navigable waterways,' thereby reducing the agency's authority, the EPA responded by simply expanding the

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

definition of 'navigable waterways.' The new rule proposed by the EPA is so vague and broad that it can designate almost any water, flowing or standing, as under federal jurisdiction. Rivers, lakes, washes, puddles, and ponds could all potentially be subject to onerous EPA regulations, whether the water is on public or private lands.

"The potential damage to private property rights and the economy are not hard to imagine.

"The EPA has already attempted such gross amplifications of authority even before this rule. In Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's home district only a few years ago, the EPA designated the aptly named Sandy Creek as a 'Water of the U.S.,' subject to all the regulations and burdens of that designation. Though the creek had been dry for 30 years, the EPA still wanted it regulated and under federal jurisdiction. Only after several years and a lot of prodding from Congressman McCarthy's home office did the EPA finally de-designate Sandy Creek.

"Under the new rule, the EPA could once again re-designate Sandy Creek along with countless other dry creeks."

In December of 2012 Dave Jolly wrote, "Peter and Frankie Smith purchased 20 acres of land outside of Santa Fe in hopes of building their dream home to retire to and live happily ever after. As is typical in any desert landscape there are dry washes and stream beds that cross their land.

"In one dry streambed they found lots of trash which they spent time cleaning up and hauling away. As they picked up the discarded tin cans, wine bottles and other items they also smoothed off the bottom of the desert wash and cleaned it up to make it look nice.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

"That's when the big bad Army Corps of Engineers moved in and told them that wash was a 'water of the United States' and that their cleaning and smoothing of the wash constituted illegal dredging and pollution flow problems that could affect the Rio Grande River, some 25 miles away. By having the wash declared a water of the United States the Smiths were now subject to the rules and regulations of the Clean Water Act, which they were now in violation of according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

"Not knowing where to turn, the Smiths ended up seeking the help of the Pacific Legal Foundation. The PCF then filed suit against the Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Smiths claiming that the actions of the Army Corps of Engineers has violated the constitutional rights they have as property owners and that they have overreached their jurisdiction in trying to take over property rights from private citizens.

"Federal officials claim regulatory power over the Smiths and their property, but the law says otherwise. By labeling a dry creek bed as a jurisdictional water body, regulators are thumbing their noses at common sense and the Supreme Court. The Smiths' arroyo simply doesn't fit the Supreme Court's tests for being a 'water body' subject to federal oversight and control. If the federal government can tell the Smiths what they can and can't do on their own land, by twisting the Clean Water Act and essentially using a divining rod to conjure a 'water body' out of dry soil, then no property owner, anywhere, is safe from federal intrusion."

The IWB (Investment Watching Blog) posted February 23, 2016: "the Obama administration's aggressive use of executive orders to unconstitutionally bypass Congress and enact its own 'environmental' regulations indicates that we can expect an intensification of the adversarial attitude by federal agencies toward ranchers, farmers, and rural property



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

owners. The EPA's new 'Waters of the United States' (WOTUS) interpretation, all by itself, guarantees collisions between federal authorities and property owners. According to Obama's EPA, even dry land miles from any 'navigable waters' is still subject to EPA's arbitrary and capricious jurisdiction because the rainwater that sinks into the ground is somehow connected to navigable waters."

I was the News Director at KIKO Radio in Globe-Miami Arizona from July of 2000 to July of 2004. Not long after I took the position, my friend Cruz Salas, the District Three Gila County Supervisor, ran afoul of the precursor to the 2012 rulemaking before it was even created.

There had been terrible rains and flooding that filled Pinal Creek with sand and debris, making floods more likely downstream from Globe.

Traditionally, the County had a D9 Caterpillar and a "screech" stationed in the Wheatfields area north of Globe to clean out the creek and clear debris from the roads in the area.

Mr. Salas ordered the County crew to clean out the creekbed as had been the custom, but somebody in Wheatfields complained to the Corps of Engineers.

The County was ordered to stop the reclamation and pay a fine of \$10,000 for 1) failing to make a proper notification to the Corps/EPA, 2) failing to obtain a proper permit, and 3) moving debris from a waterway onto an adjacent floodplain. (Yes, it's not lawful to move debris from a clogged creekbed to anywhere else in the same floodplain! Tradition over many decades had it that the debris was used to shore up the sides of the creek where flooding occurred.)

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Well, I got on the 'phone to the Commanding General of the Army Corps of Engineers and asked a bunch of questions. I explained that we were dealing with a dry creek that flooded only when it rained like crazy. I also explained that it was not navigable when it was dry and certainly not navigable when it was flooding. I explained that traditionally it had been "dredged" by the county to keep the channel free of debris. He asked if there was clear containment to the creek and I told him about the old cars and mining tires that lined the creekbed to keep floodwaters contained. He said that putting the "dredged" material outside the creekbed or using to enhance the containment was completely acceptable!

I told Mr. Salas about my chat and he directed the County Engineer to communicate with the Corps to get things normalized. That never happened, the County paid the \$10,000 fine, and the creek has been a mess ever since.

Nobody has had the cojones to take on the Corps or the EPA since and the creekbed (and floodplain) is at least two feet higher than it was back then. It's a disaster looking to happen because our creek is a "navigable water."

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, February 6, 2017**

Hard as Nails

I was listening to **Rush Limbaugh** the other day on the way into town for some shopping. The Excellence In Broadcasting Network radio commentator claims such brilliance that he ties his brain behind his back! Limbaugh began broadcasting his talk show in 1984 on **KFBK** in Sacramento, California. In 1988 he syndicated nationally from **WABC** in New York City. His weekly cume of unique listeners, at 13.25 million, makes him the most listened-to broadcaster in the United States of America. He's been the voice of American conservatism for some 35 years. I always take grief from my Democrat friends when I mention El Rushbo. They don't like him. Makes no never-mind to me. Over several decades, as a broadcaster, I've found his show to be interesting and refreshing - not that I always agree with him, because I don't.

At any rate, Limbaugh was talking about the President. The EIB's head kahuna noted that from the day **Donald Trump** declared his presidential candidacy on June 16th of 2015, the drive-by (mainstream) media has been gunning for him. The theme of the show was Trump's insensitivity to the constant attacks on him personally, what he says and what he proposes. Limbaugh said criticism rolls off this guy like water off a duck's back. He painted the picture of a man who is hard as nails.

Trump has been able to not only keep doing his job while others called for his resignation, arrest or impeachment, but also hit back as he said on a **Fox News** Townhall with **Greta Van Susteren** (now on **MSNBC** at 6pm EST), *"If somebody hits me, I have to hit them back. I have to. I'm not going to sit there and say, 'I'm wonderful, I'm a president.' I want to*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

*win." Van Susteren asked him to expound on "Being Presidential." "It means maybe not be so aggressive, maybe not get so personal. But when people get personal with me, they say, oh, they don't like my hair, okay? If I ever said I don't like their hair it would be a headline. They're allowed to say whatever they want to about me. My hair is not that bad is it? And it is my hair. But you know what happens? What happens is they hit me and I hit them back harder and, usually in all cases, they do it first. But they hit me and I hit them back harder and they disappear. That's what we want to lead the country. I will be so presidential, Greta, you will be so proud of me."*

Limbaugh listed a number of things Trump said that would have doomed any other candidate. Right out of the starting gate in 2015 the media went ballistic over his statement about Mexican illegals. *"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people,"* he said. The furor lasted for weeks but it didn't phase him!

And the crowds cheered. In August of 2015 Trump said, *"The Mexican government is much smarter, much sharper, much more cunning. They send the bad ones over because they don't want to pay for them. They don't want to take care of them."* Again the media went nuts! And Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto expressed his displeasure, but Trump again remained un-phased. Any other politician, Republican or Democrat, who said such a thing would be ridden out of town on a rail!

It has taken almost two years and Trump, now the President, is still making waves. The far left has reorganized with financial help from George Soros. They mobilized huge

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

crowds - led by masked thugs dressed in black - in opposition to the Trump Inauguration and to his spate of Executive Orders, including the mobs that showed up at airports across the country to protest the so-called Muslim travel ban. Even commentators on the usually conservative Fox News Channel have taken a liberal tack on the travel issue. It's not a Muslim ban. They don't get it that the media made up the name.

Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** went ballistic. He held a press conference and openly wept, calling it mean-spirited and un-American! There are those who say he was putting on an act better than **Harry Reid**, his predecessor, had ever done. But, as a matter of fact, the countries involved in the Order are the seven "*countries of concern*" designated by former President Obama as a "*growing threat from foreign terrorist fighters*."

According to Memphis, TN News Channel 3 **WREG**, "In December 2015, President Obama signed into law a measure placing limited restrictions on certain travelers who had visited **Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria** on or after March 1, 2011. Two months later, the Obama administration added **Libya, Somalia, and Yemen** to the list, in what it called an effort to address 'the growing threat from foreign terrorist fighters.' The restrictions specifically limited what is known as visa-waiver travel by those who had visited one of the seven countries within the specified time period."

Trump's Executive Order is not a travel ban. It's the promised implementation of **Extreme Vetting** of immigrants from seven countries that have been shown by the Obama Administration to encourage terrorists. Again, Trump just goes about his business. So far, every Executive Order issued fulfills a promise made during the campaign, and President Trump has said he intends to keep every one of them.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Limbaugh was right. The drive-by media is going to fight Trump until the mainstream becomes as ignored by the public as it is by President Trump.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, February 9, 2017**

Harry Reid, Jr.

The mainstream media has been having a field day with the Democrats' new-found obstructionism aimed at all things Trump. The drive-by media has focused like a laser on the confirmation of the President's nominations for Cabinet positions and the Supreme Court as well as anything that can be interpreted as negative in his promised Executive Orders. Meanwhile, the far left, funded by the likes of **George Soros**, has been routinely organizing mobs. And in the middle of the fray is **Harry Reid's** replacement, Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer**.

Majority Leader Reid, as you may recall, imposed the "Nuclear Option" as it came to be called. **Paul Kane**, in the **Washington Post** November 21st of 2013 penned, "Senate Democrats took the dramatic step Thursday of eliminating filibusters for most nominations by presidents, a power play they said was necessary to fix a broken system but one that Republicans said will only rupture it further. ... Democrats used a rare parliamentary move to change the rules so that federal judicial nominees and executive-office appointments can advance to confirmation votes by a simple majority of senators, rather than the 60-vote supermajority that has been the standard for nearly four decades."

With the Nuclear Option still in place, the shoe is on the other foot. Now it's the Republicans who have the power. The option is in play for Cabinet nominations, but so far, not for Supreme Court Nominees. After nominating 10th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge **Neil Gorsuch** to replace the late Justice **Antonin Scalia**, Trump noted the foot-dragging by Democrats who had effectively stopped confirmation of

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

several nominees by not showing up for committee votes. Fox' Shannon Bream noted, "This is like taking the ball home and saying I'm not gonna play!"

In committee, the rules have it that at least one member of the minority party must be present for a vote. By boycotting the committees investigating several nominees, Democrats relied on the rules to prevent the votes to confirm. In response, President Trump openly advised Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** that if it came down to it, change the Senate rules and invoke the "Nuclear Option" for ALL nominees. It isn't a requirement that committees vet and approve all nominees, but rather a long-held tradition. Thus, McConnell can simply bypass committees and take the votes to confirm directly to the Senate Floor.

Meanwhile, the Democrats were stymied in committee when chairs simply got the Republicans to approve suspending the rules. The votes to suspend were unanimous, as were the subsequent recommendations to confirm.

Let me say this in closing: House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer need to get with the program. They need to set the examples for their peers and demonstrate the kind of leadership that moves our country forward - not toward anarchy but rather toward bipartisan civility and unity of purpose.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, February 13, 2017**

### *Black-masked Thugs*

Anarchy. That's what the **Cambridge Dictionary** calls "a situation in which there is no organization and control, especially in society, because there is no effective government."

That's what happens when paid thugs dressed all in black wearing black masks and hoodies foment riot, trash property and beat or otherwise harm peaceful observers. Pandemonium and mayhem are the goals of these law-breakers. Instigating by-standers' participation is also a desirable outcome.

Police in some venues have rushed these thugs, taking them down and whisking them away to jail. In those instances, the illegal activity stops instantly. We saw this happen in Washington DC before President Trump's Inauguration. Paid thugs targeted a Starbucks coffee shop, crushing windows and setting fires before they were rushed and taken away by the DC Police. There was a video circulating on TV showing a group of Oregon protesters blocking passage of downtown traffic including a streetcar. The shot is from behind an elderly woman near her left shoulder. All of a sudden a swarm of police literally tackles all the perps in unison, throws them on the ground and puts them in cuffs. The whole swarm takes less than eight seconds! As the street-blockers are being whisked away, the little old lady steps off the curb, gleefully showing the "**Portland Doom Squad**" two thumbs up.

On the other hand, we saw what happens when law enforcement is enjoined by an administration from forcefully containing violence. Reports from the **University of California at Berkeley** had least 150 masked rioters clad in

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

black tearing crowd barriers apart and using them to bash in the thick glass doors on the Student Union. One of the thugs was seen lighting a Molotov Cocktail at the base of a broken door. There was also a video showing a woman hit in the face with pepper spray by a perpetrator while being interviewed on camera by CNN outlet **KGO**. Another shot shows three armed men in uniform passively watching the mayhem from a porch overlooking the anarchists at work. There was no effort made to quell the lawlessness. **UC Berkeley News** the next day reported some \$100,000 in damages.

Billionaire **George Soros** is prominently named as the willing supplier of the money needed to fund this thuggery across the country. According to **Snopes.com**, a grantmaking network founded by George Soros provided funding to some groups that engaged in Ferguson-related protest activities. Mr. Soros gave at least \$33 million in one year to support already-established groups that emboldened the grass-roots, on-the-ground activists in Ferguson, according to the most recent tax filings of his nonprofit **Open Society Foundations**.

Supposedly, money for organized troublemakers is funneled through organizations like the **SEIU**, **MoveOn.org** and **MORE**, a successor to **ACORN**. **ACORN**'s disruptive activities came under public scrutiny in 2009 and the resulting loss of support and funding caused the closure of its 30 state offices. **Black Lives Matter** protesters held a sit-in at the **MORE** offices when the organization stopped paying over \$5,000 per month to **BLM** thugs.

The protest racket goes deeper than a few billionaires. The **North Dakota Tax Commission** is warning **Dacota Access Pipeline (DAPL)** protesters that it will be expecting them to file tax returns reporting the money received for their activities. According to the **Washington Times**, more than 30 environmental organizations, including the **Sierra Club**, the

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Indigenous Environmental Network, Food and Water Watch, 350.org and Greenpeace**, have backed the **Standing Rock** protest.

DAPL protesters had to leave when winter storms snowed most of them out. Tribal leaders on the adjacent reservation asked the remaining protesters to leave because they left a mess behind that was causing pollution. They chose to stay and pay the price.

**TheBlaze** reported on February 3rd, "Rob Keller, spokesman for the **Morton County sheriff's office**, told the **Guardian** on Wednesday night that it was too soon to say what charges were being filed. In a statement, he claimed that a 'rogue group of protesters' had trespassed on private property.

"A lot of water protectors really felt that we needed to make some sort of stand as far as treaty rights,' said **Linda Black Elk**, a member of the **Catawba Nation**. 'We basically started to see police mobilizing from all directions. Someone came along and told us we had about 15 minutes before the camp would get raided.'"

**Washington Post**: "The federal government announced [...] that it was dispatching **Bureau of Indian Affairs** agents to help clear Dakota Access Pipeline protesters from the Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

"Some activists have moved to higher ground, and [...] authorities arrested 74 of them who had decamped to land owned by the pipeline's developer, **Energy Transfer Partners**.

"Acting assistant secretary of Indian affairs **Michael S. Black** said the agency had sent 'enforcement support and will assist' the tribe 'in closing the protest camps within the Standing Rock Reservation boundary.'

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

“North Dakota Governor **Doug Burgum**, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe leadership, local law enforcement, and local landowners have all warned the public and those still camped of the dangerous spring flooding expected due to the heavy amount of snowfall the state received this winter,' Black said. 'The closing of the camps is a matter of public health and safety, and working together at this time will allow for the safe removal of waste and debris that will impact the local environment and protection of those camped.'

"The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe had already passed a tribal resolution asking protesters to leave and requesting federal aid in closing the camp."

I'm waiting to see if there are any folks on this country's leadership who will develop the cojones to handle the thugs the same way California Governor **Ronald Reagan** did in 1969. Same place, same criminal activity.

The Berkeley riots were about 2.8 acres of University land the rioters wanted to make into a park. U C planned on using the land for student housing. Some 600 young people initially demonstrated at the U C Berkeley campus, eventually moving to the park around which an eight-foot chain-link fence had been erected. There were close to 3,000 of them by the time they reached the property. The Berkeley Police and California Highway Patrol were called in to quell the violence and disperse the crowd - to no avail. By the next day the mob had swelled to some 6,000. That's when Reagan called in the California National Guard with instructions to take whatever measures were needed to bring the event to a halt. One student was killed, one blinded, 128 Berkeley residents were admitted to local hospitals, and 111 police officers were injured, including one who was stabbed in the chest.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

The same kind of force used in 1969 probably wouldn't be necessary today. Law enforcement has changed a lot since the '60s. Like the Portland Doom Squad, police special operations and crowd control are sweeping, swift and surgical, capturing lawbreakers forcefully and taking them off site and out of danger almost immediately.

How many protesters remain at Standing Rock? Hopefully, no black-masked anarchist thugs.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, February 16, 2017**

### *Obstructionism*

This writing two columns a week is a son-of-a-gun! I really don't like playing politics every time. But, there is something to be said about the crazy stuff that's been going on across our country. Not to mention that some of the things I write make my liberal friends just go nuts! Maybe it's the way I write. Or not. So, I guess that may be a couple of good reasons to keep on writing.

A little over a week ago, (I started this on February 8th) we witnessed something never done before in American political history: The confirmation of an Official nominated to the President's Cabinet - by the Vice President of the United States. The Senate tied 50 to 50 in the vote to confirm Secretary of Education **Betsy DeVos**, which forced the Vice President (who is the President of the Senate) to cast the tie-breaking vote. All the Democrats voted no along with two Republicans. Of course, as expected, Vice President **Mike Pence** voted to confirm.

The goal of President Trump was to have all of his nominations, including his Supreme Court Nominee 10th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge **Neil Gorsuch** confirmed within 30 days or so. Even with all the opposition's foot-dragging it seems to be going along pretty well, so far, give or take a day or two. But ... depending on the ire of the left in the Congress, it may take a while longer to do the Supreme Court thing.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch ... the Democrats are plotting what to do next. The talking heads on TV have been fleshing out the contention that Democrats in the House and Senate

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

are livid that they lost the General election to **Donald Trump**. The operative word is hate! Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** showed that hatred openly during a January 29th press conference about President Trump's ban on immigration from seven countries in the middle-east. He worked himself into such a snit that he had to stop for a moment to catch his breath through his tears. The President called them "fake" tears and wondered out loud, *"I'm gonna ask him who is his acting coach."* Actually, the two men get along very well and Schumer got a kick out of the President's remark. Yes, according to **TIME** they go back decades to a time when the President's dad, builder Fred Trump, and Chuck's maternal grandfather worked together in Brooklyn.

Just over a week ago Senator **Elizabeth Warren** was directed to sit down after violating a rule forbidding the besmirching of another Senator's character. She was reading into the record a highly critical letter from the late **Corretta Scott King** written in 1986 about **Jeff Sessions** who, at the time, was being considered for a seat on the Federal Bench. Last week, Senator Sessions was under consideration for U S Attorney General, something the Democrat minority was fighting to delay or prevent. GOP Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** called out Warren for impugning Senator Sessions' integrity. She objected and continued reading. McConnell complained to the President pro-tem again. The question was called and by a 49 to 43 party-line vote Warren was rebuked and not allowed to re-take the floor. Of course, she was furious and left the Senate chamber in a huff. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called it "selective enforcement."

California's 43rd Congressional District Representative **Maxine Waters** has been calling for President Trump's impeachment, even though the man has only been in office for four weeks! Waters said last week that she's keeping a list

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

of things Trump has done to deserve being brought before the House. Impeachment by the House of Representatives is tantamount to a criminal indictment. President **Bill Clinton** was impeached December 19th, 1998 on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. However, as with President **Andrew Johnson** in 1868, the Senate failed to convict Clinton. The only other presidential impeachment process in American history was leveled against President **Richard Nixon**, who resigned rather than continue in 1974.

Democrats have been doing everything they can think of to derail the Trump train. The President calls the Democrats' delays of his nominations "disgraceful." He tweeted a week ago Wednesday that it was a disgrace his full cabinet had not yet been seated. Even Chicago's Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** observed that the Senate Democrats need to chill out. *"It took us a long time to get this low. It ain't gonna happen in 2018,"* he said during a discussion at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. *"Take a chill pill, man. You gotta be in this for the long haul. And if you think it's going to be a quick turnaround like that, it's not."* He went on, *"Winning's everything. You don't win, you can't make the public policy. I say that because it is hard for people in our party to accept that principle. Sometimes you just got to win. OK? And our party likes to be right even if they lose."* Interesting observation, you think? Better to lose than be wrong. No wonder!

Meanwhile, the circus in the Federal Courts over the January 27th Executive Order invoking Extreme Vetting has taken courtroom intervention, obstruction and lawmaking to new heights.

One week ago, Arizona Senator Jeff Flake introduced a Bill that is getting substantial support. It would break up the ultra-liberal 9th Circuit into two pieces. The new 12th Circuit



### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

would be comprised of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Arizona. The newly re-allocated 9th would be made up of the Pacific States of California, Oregon, and Hawaii as well as the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. A House version of the Bill, introduced by Arizona Congressman Andy Biggs last week, would leave Washington State in the 9th. In 1891, when the Ninth Circuit was formed, it was sparsely populated, containing just 4% of the country's population spread over some 40% of the U S land mass. It encompasses 20% of the population today, making the sprawling 9th Circuit Court of Appeals the most over-worked, bogged-down Bench in the nation. It's also the most over-turned by the U S Supreme Court.

About my writing ... got any suggestions for subjects in the future? No. Seriously!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, February 20, 2017**

Take A Deep Breath ...

The closing line on the news the other day was, "Take a deep breath, get a life, and move along." Now, I didn't have to speculate what that one was about ... it was a parting shot at the idiots that were picking on **Donald Trump** for sticking up for his daughter **Ivanka** about her shoe, apparel, jewelry and handbag lines. That was the story following the one over Presidential Counselor **Kellyanne Conway's** remarks about buying Ivanka's brands. Oh, boy, that sure is a bunch of earth-shaking news! I mean, it's got to be worth at least six to seven news-cycles, what with the sabre-rattling from the PC Ethics gang on the Left and all.

No. Really. It's just more of that fake news. At least seven different fashion outlets dropped the Ivanka line of clothing and jewelry under pressure from boycotts brought by on-line fanatics. Conway was quoted by **CNN News**, "*Go buy Ivanka's stuff, is what I would tell you,*" Conway said. "*It's a wonderful line. I own some of it. I fully -- I'm going to just, I'm going to give a free commercial here: Go buy it today, everybody. You can find it online.*" Although they deny it, **Nordstrom's**, **Neiman Marcus**, **Shoes.com**, **Belk**, **Jet**, **ShopStyle** and **Glit** all dropped the Ivanka fashion line because of those in the #GrabYourWallet boycott movement. **Sears** and **Kmart** dropped items from the Trump Home line a few days later. **Businessinsider.com** reported that "*Nordstrom became one of the main targets of the anti-Trump boycotts after a shopper's open letter to the retailer went viral in October. The letter called Ivanka Trump's brand 'toxic' and demanded Nordstrom stop selling it.*" Sales of her products began to slow shortly after the letter was published.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

As I see it ... the real, hard news story is about how a boycott on social media can affect sales of products, including in this instance the daughter of the President of the United States. The story is not "We dropped the line because sales slumped." It's about an online open letter to a retail outlet and the resultant boycott against Nordstrom's and eight other outlets meant solely as an assault on the daughter of President Donald J. Trump. Instead of a real, in-depth report of how social media has the capacity to ruin the lives and livelihoods of innocents, we are bombarded with mostly meaningless pap from a mainstream media bent on nothing less than revenge because the Democrats (and the drive-by media) lost a major election.

Take a deep breath, get a life, and move along, now ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

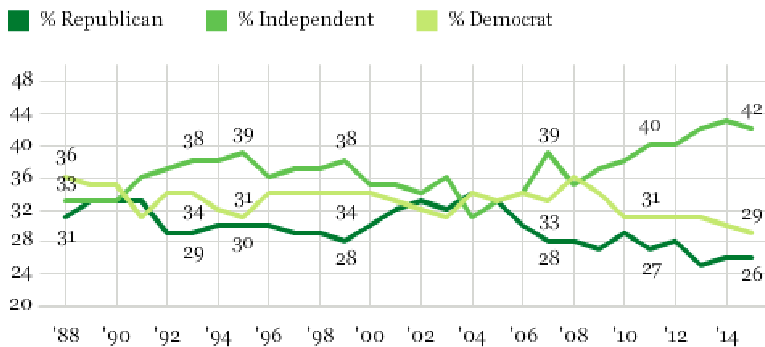
## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, February 23, 2017**

*A trophy and a safe space*

Republicans and Democrats are outnumbered by Independents. So, why are the polls reporting only how the Dems and the GOP feel about today's issues? Look at this Gallup Poll graph:

*U.S. Party Identification, Yearly Averages, 1988-2015*



Based on multiple day polls conducted by telephone

GALLUP®

26% GOP, 29% DEM, 42% IND

We know that the President's approval ratings are in the tank right now with both Republicans and Democrats. That will change. But, why don't we know what percentage of Independents hate/love/could care less about Trump?

In scrounging for background on this subject, I was able to find this from **November 10, 2016**. **Phillip Stucky** wrote the following in the **Daily Caller**:

#### Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

"Voters aren't concerned about Republican nominee Donald Trump's comments during a 2005 interview about women, according to a national NBC/Surveymonkey poll published Monday morning [**the day before the November 8th election**].

"A strong majority of 63 percent of Independent voters reported that Trump's comments make no difference in their decision about who to support in November, compared to only 33 percent of Democrats, and 81 percent of Republicans.

"Thirty-one percent of Independents also reported that they were less likely to vote for the Republican nominee for president, compared to only 3 percent who reported the comments made them more likely to vote for Trump.

"Twelve percent of Republicans reported they were less likely to support Trump, and 1 percent of Democrats reported they were more likely to vote for Trump after hearing the comments.

"Similarly, 63 percent of Independent voters said the comments weren't enough to warrant the Republican nominee's exit from the race, compared to just 34 percent of Democrats who reported the same.

"Not surprisingly, 84 percent of Republicans reported they didn't feel that Trump should leave the race, although 12 percent of Republican voters said Trump needed to leave the race.

"Overall, Clinton leads Trump by 5 points, earning 46 percent compared to Trump's 41 percent. Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson earned 8 percent, and Green Party nominee Jill Stein rounded out the pack with 3 percent.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

"Clinton leads the Real Clear Average by 4.9 percentage points, earning 47.9 percent compared to Trump's 43 percent. Trump continues to lead in the LA Times daily tracking poll.

"The NBC poll surveyed 23,329 likely voters, and ran from Oct. 3 through Oct 9, although the components relating to Trump's comments came after the survey was published Friday. The poll carried a margin of error 1 percentage point in either direction."

You've gotta do the math, but when you do ... you'll find that some 57% of the electorate could care less about the Trump "locker room" talk. Of the total electorate 9.5% of Dems didn't care, and 21% of the GOP felt the Trump talk was overrated. The remaining 26.5% of likely voters, the Independents, were not swayed.

I'm struck by how far off the mark the polls were on Clinton vs. Trump the day before the 2016 election. The spread for Clinton was 4.9 percentage points in the **Real Clear Poll** and five points in the **NBC/Surveymonkey Poll**. Somehow both Polls missed the probable results from states that could have the greatest effect on the **Electoral College** results. I think this is why so many people - including the mainstream media - are angry about the election.

Everybody ... and I do mean everybody ... forgot that members of the Electoral College are selected by the popular vote of millions of citizens, but it's the Electoral College that elects the President by a simple majority of just 270! Because everybody forgot about that very basic part of the U S Constitution, they ended up embarrassed and looking stupid. Maybe it's because most of the electorate never learned about it or perhaps civics has become a forgotten class in school. So far, the liberals have been successful in redirecting the

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

resultant anger toward **Donald Trump**, INS/ICE and the Republican majorities in the **Congress**.

Several weeks after the election, **Bernie Sanders** asked, "Do we stay with a failed status quo approach or do we go forward with a fundamental restructuring?" Good question, Bernie. **Frank Bruni** of the **New York Times** wrote an analysis of just that question, "I ... noticed a contradiction between their rightful worry about focusing too much on Trump and their continued focus on ... Trump. That dynamic was reflected in a recent poll showing that while 41 percent of Democrats were unfamiliar with their party's Senate leader, **Chuck Schumer**, only 29 percent were unfamiliar with Trump's apocalyptic guru, **Steve Bannon**. Democrats at all levels are clearer on their enemies than on their agenda. ... operational failures alone can't explain the Democratic disadvantages in the Senate, House, governor's offices and statehouses."

The question is: Will the Democrats come up with clear, concise goals and concentrate on the key states in 2018 and 2020? The answer is nope. Anger is so deeply entrenched in the Democratic base that no party leader will be able to redirect it into constructive campaigning. Chanting mobs driven by bull-horn toting paid trouble-makers aren't going to go away any time soon. Those "community organizers" must first be replaced by truly inspiring leaders capable of capturing the imagination of young people and narrowly focusing that inspiration on winning. The problem with that is our children are not actively taught to win any more ... they don't know how because everybody gets a trophy and a safe space.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, February 27, 2017**

*Arby's, KFC, et al*

I recall **Arby's Roast Beef** sandwiches at 4 for 5 bucks. Now they're \$3.29 each. What the Hell happened? Now they've got French dip, turkey, chicken, fish and fajitas and ... what ever happened to the Classic Arby's Roast Beef Sandwich? It's buried behind all the other stuff. Once upon a time, Arby's had a scrumptious BLT. No more. It got lost behind all the other stuff. I remember when Arby's was like McDonalds - presenting super-fast, reasonably-priced food from a very short menu with a choice of three sandwiches, three shakes and three soft-drinks. The menu now has 52 meal selections, 7 snacks, 5 sliders, 3 kids meals, 2 salads, 16 sides, 5 deserts and 5 drinks. Two things have happened. 1) It costs much more to operate a fast food outfit with a big menu. 2) It takes longer to get the food because of the prep time, and you know the old adage: Time is money. Arby's is no longer a fast-food outlet. Higher overhead and higher prices meant they priced themselves out of my market here in rural Arizona. They left town!

Then there was **Kentucky Fried Chicken**. The Colonel had the right idea. Sell take-out fried chicken for a reasonable price with 3 shakes and 3 drinks - kinda like McDonalds was doing with hamburgers. But you know what? They don't have an outlet in Globe-Miami Arizona anymore! They did the same stuff Arby's did - expanded the menu and slowed down prep time, increasing overhead and reducing profits. KFC is another outfit that priced themselves out of rural markets.

I remember buying a **McDonald's** hamburger for 15 cents. Now it's \$1.29 - almost an-order-of-magnitude more than the original. You want something reasonable in the food



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

department at McDonald's anymore? Fogedabowdit! A stupid salad costs more than a diamond ring! A Big Mac cost 49 cents not that long ago, but now? \$3.99! As John Stossel would say, "Give me a break!"

Except for its incredible location in Globe-Miami Arizona, McDonald's would be gone by now because of decreased profitability and bloated pricing, the results of much higher overhead, a humongous menu, and increased prep time. One other thing has happened over the years ... customers have to wait. Back in the day it took about as long to make a burger as it did a milk-shake. That made the wait time about one minute, two if you had to wait in line! Now, there are 153 items on the McDonald's menu. Your choice for chow can make for some serious wait time today.

Another serious issue is raising its head in Arizona - a 25% increase in the minimum wage this year. It remains to be seen if location and brand name will save McDonalds in Globe.

**Church's Chicken** is located in one of the worst business lots in the area, but they've maintained the menu, prep speed and pricing that put them on the map in the first place. Church's could double or even tripple business with a more accessible location. Be that as it may ... Church's Chicken is takin' care 'o bidness at the corner of Hwy 60 and Radonovich Drive in Globe, Az.

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## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Thursday, March 2, 2017**

### *We Make Too Much Money*

Last year GOP presidential candidate Trump spoke to Steel Workers Union members and the UAW, asserting that "We make too much money." My understanding of what he was getting at, in context, was that Unions have been doing themselves out of work because they have pushed wages past corporate profitability, forcing many manufacturers to go elsewhere to build their products. See: Ford Motor Company, Carrier Air Conditioning, et al.

January 24th U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Az) introduced the Transportation Investment Recalibration to Equality (TIRE) Act. The measure effectively suspends portions of the Davis-Bacon act of 1931 relating to federal highway construction projects. Davis-Bacon assures that laborers and mechanics on government-funded projects make at least the local prevailing wage. Suspension would make the infrastructure work proposed by the Trump Administration a lot more competitive, opening up bidding opportunities for small employers and putting to work huge numbers of otherwise unemployed construction workers.

A second issue relative to "too much money" is the minimum wage. Trump said in the debates that America is losing to other countries as a result of high minimum wages. Because we are forced by law to "make too much money," two things are happening: 1) Inflation and 2) less youth jobs. The evidence of high minimum wage's damage is in Seattle and Los Angeles where inflation is rampant and young people who could be working at entry-level jobs in the food and lodging industries are out on the streets. Young people with nothing to do get into trouble.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Another example is McDonald's responding to higher minimum wages by replacing selected personnel with automated kiosks at some 600 outlets across the country. This is being done in direct response to SEIU and other Unions' demands for a \$15 an hour wage.

Because of a mandated "living" wage, kids don't get the entry-level jobs with subsequent raises as they gain experience and seek better pay based on their employment history. Instead, workers with families to support will labor at two or three entry-level jobs, taking them out of play for young people just getting started in the workforce. It appears that people are being forced to work their butts off just to make ends meet right now - today.

Here in Globe-Miami we have businesses forced to lay off workers and raise prices because Arizona voters passed Proposition 206 mandating a 49% increase in the minimum wage. The minimum was \$8.05 last year. This year it's up over 24% to \$10.00. It increases incrementally 50 cents a year until it reaches \$12.00 in 2020. A close friend has increased his own hours and laid off one employee to meet the new requirements and he's planning to increase prices in proportion to increases coming from his suppliers.

It looks like we actually are being forced to "make too much money."

I read a Twitter post last week that sorta fits right here:  
"You've gotta love liberals. They're kinda like Pet Rocks. Only not as smart!"

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, March 6, 2017**

*coup d'état*

So, if I read my newspaper, online reports and cable TV news correctly, the Democrats have been attempting to craft a non-violent coup d'état against the Trump Administration. Now really, how crazy is that? I know. I know. All my liberal friends are reacting like I've gone bonkers about this latest political plan to unseat the President and his lackies. But, I say ... it's real!

Just consider the players: **Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi, Elizabeth Warren, Chuck Schumer, Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, Barack Obama**. These folks are the "big", as they say of America's favorite sport. These people are the biggest and brightest - the greatest liars of all time! With the mention of each of these names a little phrase comes to mind. "To this day he hasn't released his tax returns ...", "We have to pass the Bill ...", "I'm proud of my Native American heritage ...", "I would not block him ...", "put a lid on Iran's nuclear program ...", "Israel is a burden ...", and "You can keep your doctor ..."

In the early years of this decade, **Glenn Beck** had an interesting TV show. Every day he presented a subject about US politics or American history. His way of doing it was mesmerizing to most. He had his set constructed like a classroom - big - with room for lots of charts and what seemed like a gazillion blackboards (with real chalk - for those of you who remember such stuff!)

We've talked here on a number of occasions of **Cloward and Piven** and of **Saul Alinski**. Back in January of 2010, on his **Fox News** program, Glenn Beck warned of catastrophic results for our economy if President Obama kept pushing his

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"fundamental transformation of America." You can read his take on on this pair of radical activists for yourself at the following link:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/2010/01/05/cloward-piven-and-fundamental-transformation-america.html>

**Wikipedia** says of Alinski: *"Saul David Alinsky (January 30, 1909 - June 12, 1972) was an American community organizer and writer. He is generally considered to be the founder of modern community organizing. He is often noted for his 1971 book **Rules for Radicals**."*

In February of 2010 Glenn Beck brought up Saul Alinski during an installment of his program on Fox News. There is **YouTube** footage of it at this link:

<https://youtu.be/OBQtSr85RuM>

The thing about Beck was his earnestness - he was serious about the subject matter and determined - it was like the world was going to end if the audience didn't take his sometimes outrageous presentations to heart. He literally spent months on Cloward and Piven and Saul Alinski, all the while doing his best not to panic. Some of my friends called him a loony-tune. As a matter of fact, they still do! He is such a patriotic guy, driven to protect America from the crazies out there who are willing to do almost anything to turn the US into a socialist country.

That's where Alinski comes in. There are only six (some say twelve) rules for radicals and every one of them has been in play for the last nine or ten years. Community organization was at the heart of Barack Obama's elections as well as his campaign slogans **Yes We Can!** and **Hope & Change**. The whole of Obama's tenure was driven by his roots as a community organizer and he played it by the book. Alinski's book. In the beginning the object was to attract huge crowds

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of young people using the tried a true help of Unions and Union organizers. Both the **SEIU** and the **UAW** were pressed into service, providing manpower and printing services. At one point **ACORN** was at the forefront of community organizing, but it was caught intimidating voters and fomenting unrest. Still, all of Alinski's rules have been in play, along with increasingly organized violence. The object being the fundamental transformation of America.

The idea of a non-violent coup d'état against US President **Donald Trump** is just the thing to fulfill Cloward and Piven's dream of a socialist America. Look at the plan without seeing it. First there's the charge that the Russians messed with the outcome of the election. On-going investigations have been in progress since Hillary's server was discovered. These probes include allegations that the Trump campaign and Russian President **Vladimir Putin** colluded to throw the election.

In mid-February National Security Advisor to the President, **Michael Flynn** was forced to resign over disproven allegations that he had discussed US sanctions against Moscow with Russian Ambassador **Sergey Kislyak**. Flynn had neglected to include details of those allegations when he reported to Vice President **Mike Pence**, a mistake that cost him his job. Not over the allegations, which were a put-up job, but that he concealed the whole story from the Vice President. Worse, there were reports that surveillance transcriptions of Flynn's conversations with Kislyak had been circulating in the press.

Attorney General **Jeff Sessions** was accused of lying to congress about conversations with the Russian Ambassador. In context, Sessions had testified that he never talked about US sanctions on Russia with the Ambassador. What was taken as perjury by some is his statement, *"I have been called*

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*a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign, and I didn't have - did not have communications with the Russians, ... and I'm unable to comment on it."* Again, in context, the subject at hand was sanctions. The pressure was on for him to resign ... instead he called a press conference to announce that he would be recusing himself from any investigations involving Russian influence on the elections. President Trump was angry that Sessions caved in to the pressure. Meanwhile, there have been cries of foul and demands for an independent investigation.

We're talking about a planned, and so far well-executed, coup d'état against the Trump Administration. According to **RealClearPolitics.com**, **Breitbart's Joel Pollack** put together this timeline of the so-called "coup" launched by Obama against Trump:

**1. June 2016: FISA request.** The Obama administration files a request with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA) to monitor communications involving Donald Trump and several advisers. The request, uncharacteristically, is denied.

**2. July: Russia joke.** Wikileaks releases emails from the Democratic National Committee that show an effort to prevent Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) from winning the presidential nomination. In a press conference, Donald Trump refers to Hillary Clinton's own missing emails, joking: "*Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 e-mails that are missing.*" That remark becomes the basis for accusations by Clinton and the media that Trump invited further hacking.

**3. October: Podesta emails.** In October, Wikileaks releases the emails of Clinton campaign chair John

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Podesta, rolling out batches every day until the election, creating new mini-scandals. The Clinton campaign blames Trump and the Russians.

**4. October: FISA request.** The Obama administration submits a new, narrow request to the FISA court, now focused on a computer server in Trump Tower suspected of links to Russian banks. No evidence is found - but the wiretaps continue, ostensibly for national security reasons, Andrew McCarthy at National Review later notes. The Obama administration is now monitoring an opposing presidential campaign using the high-tech surveillance powers of the federal intelligence services.

**5. January 2017: Buzzfeed/CNN dossier.** Buzzfeed releases, and CNN reports, a supposed intelligence “dossier” compiled by a foreign former spy. It purports to show continuous contact between Russia and the Trump campaign, and says that the Russians have compromising information about Trump. None of the allegations can be verified and some are proven false. Several media outlets claim that they had been aware of the dossier for months and that it had been circulating in Washington.

**6. January: Obama expands NSA sharing.** As Michael Walsh later notes, and as the New York Times reports, the outgoing Obama administration “*expanded the power of the National Security Agency to share globally intercepted personal communications with the government’s 16 other intelligence agencies before applying privacy protections.*” The new powers, and reduced protections, could make it easier for intelligence on private citizens to be circulated improperly or leaked.



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**7. January: Times report.** The New York Times reports, on the eve of Inauguration Day, that several agencies - the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Treasury Department are monitoring several associates of the Trump campaign suspected of Russian ties. Other news outlets also report the existence of "*a multiagency working group to coordinate investigations across the government,*" though it is unclear how they found out, since the investigations would have been secret and involved classified information.

**8. February: Mike Flynn scandal.** Reports emerge that the FBI intercepted a conversation in 2016 between future National Security Adviser Michael Flynn - then a private citizen - and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. The intercept supposedly was part of routine spying on the ambassador, not monitoring of the Trump campaign. The FBI transcripts reportedly show the two discussing Obama's newly-imposed sanctions on Russia, though Flynn earlier denied discussing them. Sally Yates, whom Trump would later fire as acting Attorney General for insubordination, is involved in the investigation. In the end, Flynn resigns over having misled Vice President Mike Pence (perhaps inadvertently) about the content of the conversation.

**9. February: Times claims extensive Russian contacts.** The New York Times cites "*four current and former American officials*" in reporting that the Trump campaign had "*repeated contacts with senior Russian intelligence officials.*" The Trump campaign denies the claims - and the Times admits that there is

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*“no evidence”* of coordination between the campaign and the Russians. The White House and some congressional Republicans begin to raise questions about illegal intelligence leaks.

**10. March: the Washington Post targets Jeff Sessions.** The Washington Post reports that Attorney General Jeff Sessions had contact twice with the Russian ambassador during the campaign - once at a Heritage Foundation event and once at a meeting in Sessions's Senate office. The Post suggests that the two meetings contradict Sessions's testimony at his confirmation hearings that he had no contacts with the Russians, though in context (not presented by the Post) it was clear he meant in his capacity as a campaign surrogate, and that he was responding to claims in the *“dossier”* of ongoing contacts. The New York Times, in covering the story, adds that the Obama White House *“rushed to preserve”* intelligence related to alleged Russian links with the Trump campaign. By *“preserve”* it really means *“disseminate”*: officials spread evidence throughout other government agencies *“to leave a clear trail of intelligence for government investigators”* and perhaps the media as well.

The Democrats have to keep finding little titbits that can be nuanced into screaming headlines so as to keep the Trump Administration constantly on defense. But President Trump has become accustomed to leading the headlines. He countered the early March brouhaha by "tweeting" his own allegation that Obama had his "wires tapped" in Tump Tower. You know, Pollack was right. **HeatStreet.com** first published the FISA wire tap story way back on November 7th last year: <https://heatst.com/world/exclusive-fbi-granted-fisa-warrant-covering-trump-camps-ties-to-russia/>

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Saturday **Kimberly Gilfoyle** guest-hosted **Fox News' Watters' World**. Ms. Gilfoyle interviewed Fox contributor **Geraldo Rivera** and liberal Journalist and Senior Advisor to the Bush Administration **Cathy Areu** about her connection in the Obama White House. Watch the stunning **YouTube** video here: <https://youtu.be/OSdODs7XWSY> That's not all. They had Col. **Tony Shaffer**, retired **CIA** intel operative, on to follow up: <https://youtu.be/u-Oga4AVrj8>

**Mark Levin** appeared on **Fox News Fox and Friends** Yesterday to make the case for President Trump. You can watch the **YouTube** video here: <https://youtu.be/91fNfGjZdM0>

The Trump Administration has called for a Congressional investigation into the Obama wiretap allegations. The Trump charges have been added to the now considerable list before the committee investigating "Russian Connection" allegations raised by the Democrats. And the non-violent coup d'état against the Trump Administration rumbles along at a predictable snail's pace.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, March 9, 2017**

### *All About the Money*

House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** was famously quoted as she addressed complaints that the text of the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act (ObamaCare) was unavailable.



Well, turn-about's fair play, as they say. The Republican majority in the House has been accused of dragging its feet and being slow to provide the details of a replacement for ObamaCare.

According to **Vox** writer **Ezra Klein** in early January, "*It sounded like Pelosi was admitting the Democrats had a plan to jam through passage of a bill whose contents were secret. 'We have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it' became a handy symbol of everything wrong with Obamacare and the process behind its passage. Republicans have quite literally adopted 'we have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it' as their health reform strategy.*"

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January 31st the Representative from San Francisco fired back at the GOP with this fusillade on CNN: *"Instead of focusing on jobs and wages, Republicans have decided to launch an all-out assault on affordable health care in America. Their plan is to repeal the Affordable Care Act, slash Medicaid, and destroy the sacred Medicare guarantee that has protected generations of Americans. ... The Republicans' plan won't make America great again. It will make America sick again. ... Repeal of the Affordable Care Act will lead to death, disability and suffering. And Republicans will do all of this to give a massive new tax break to the wealthiest - as they abandon seniors and working families across America. ... Democrats will stand our ground to protect the Affordable Care Act, because we believe ... that health care is the right of every American, not just the privileged few."*

**Andrew Kugle** writing in the **Washington Free Beacon** penned the following February 23rd:

"A former Republican lawmaker who led the charge to repeal Obamacare while in Congress has now come out to say it will not happen.

"Former House Speaker **John Boehner** (Ohio) told an Orlando health care conference on Thursday [2/23] that a full repeal and replace of Obamacare is 'not going to happen,' **Politico** reported.

"'[Congressional Republicans are] going to fix Obamacare—I shouldn't call it repeal-and-replace, because it's not going to happen,' Boehner said.

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"[The former Congressman] argued that the law will instead be changed in a few ways but the majority of President Obama's health care law will stay intact.

"'Most of the framework of the Affordable Care Act ... that's going to be there,' Boehner said.

"Boehner's comments came a week after President Trump and current House Speaker **Paul Ryan** (R., Wis.) hinted that a repeal and replace plan could be released in early March.

"'We're doing Obamacare, we're in the final stages,' [President Donald] Trump said. 'So, we will be submitting sometime in early March, mid-March.'"

"Boehner called Republicans' talk about a quick repeal and replace too optimistic."

**ZeroHedge** reported the following from **Goldman Sach's Alec Phillips**:

"The original Republican strategy was to address the law in two phases. The first phase was to repeal most of the fiscal provisions via the reconciliation process, which allows passage in the Senate with only 51 votes, and therefore potentially only with Republican support. These provisions would take effect with a delay, preserving the status quo for perhaps two years. In the second phase, Congress would enact a replacement program to provide some continuation of the coverage provided under the ACA, with the details to be determined during the two-year transition period.

"This two-stage approach would theoretically have two advantages over addressing the issue in one piece of legislation.

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First, it would have allowed congressional Republicans and President Trump to quickly follow through on a key campaign priority, without spending much of the first year of the new term, when political momentum is greatest, sorting out the details of any replacement.

Second, it would have allowed repeal to pass via the reconciliation process with only 51 votes—presumably only Republican votes—but the replacement to pass under regular order with 60 votes. This would allow for changes to insurance market regulation and other non-fiscal policies that cannot be addressed via the budget reconciliation process.

"Some centrist Republicans, particularly in the Senate, have signaled support for a substantial continuation of expanded benefits and have called for at least some elements of the replacement program to be included in the repeal legislation. By contrast, some conservative lawmakers support repeal of the law with limited replacement of the current subsidies. Republican leaders have taken a position that is in between these approaches."

Friday, the week of CPAC, President Trump pledged (again) that there would be repeal and replacement of ObamaCare. He said he was aware of all the news panic about people losing their health coverage and he noted that the easiest way to repeal the ACA would be to do nothing for two years. In two years the healthcare program would be collapsing under its own weight, the American people would be suffering and Congressional Democrats would be begging to support the Republican repeal and replace plan. But, he followed those remarks by saying that would not be the right thing to do. Instead, he's urging the Congress to move forward with plans to repeal and replace.

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A February 24th article in the **New York Times** from Contributing Op-Ed writer **Steve Rattner** addressed the heart of the repeal and replace problem for the Congress.

"The crux of the problem is that the Republicans want to repeal most - if not all - of the taxes that were put in place to finance the health care expansion, which would make maintaining the benefits mathematically impossible.

"According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the Medicaid expansion and the exchange subsidies will cost \$2 trillion over the next 10 years. Some of that would be paid for by a variety of savings in the expenses of Medicare and Medicaid.

"However, about \$1 trillion - roughly half - of these costs are being paid for by a variety of taxes and fees that the Republicans want to repeal, provisions like the 3.8 percent levy on investment income, the 0.9 percent surtax on Medicare hospital insurance, penalties on individuals who do not buy coverage and so forth."

More simply put, it all gets down to the money. The government can't adequately subsidize the Health Insurance industry to hold policy premiums down. Insurers have been bailing out, leaving many states with only one provider. Losses to some of the country's largest health insurance providers have been in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Remaining providers, faced with the possibility of future losses, have increased premiums sharply.

In January last year **United Healthcare**, America's largest health insurance provider, announced it would be withdrawing from participation in the exchanges. It was projecting losses for 2016 approaching \$1 billion on



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

ObamaCare policies. Actual losses were reported at \$450 million.

**Aetna**, the third largest health insurance provider announced last August that it would be pulling out of 11 of the 15 ObamaCare exchanges after pre-tax losses of some \$200 million.

**Humana**, another of the country's largest insurers, announced in early February that it would be pulling out of the exchanges in 2018 because of \$45 million in projected losses for 2017.

The remaining insurers have been forced to increase premiums. Arizona patients have seen premium increases of 116%. The premium for a hypothetical 27-year-old with a benchmark "second-lowest cost silver plan" jumped from \$196 to \$422 per month. While Minnesota saw increases of some 60%, the average increase in 2017 premiums nationwide was something like twenty-five percent.

**Mount Sinai Health System President and CEO Kenneth Davis**, in an appearance on CNBC, said, "*Premiums are going up, deductibles are higher and that's a problem ... What it's all about is that not enough healthy people have signed up.*" And that created a lopsided business model. The elderly use the lion's share of healthcare and cost the insurers the largest amount. Young healthy users rarely see a doctor and are the least costly for insurers. The ACA was supposed to pay for itself through mandated coverage backed by tax penalties on those who didn't sign up. Unfortunately young people found the tax penalties cheaper than the premiums and didn't sign up in the numbers expected. The resultant loss of revenue caused the insurers to increase premiums and deductibles as ways to keep losses at a minimum.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Monday the **American Health Care Act** was rolled out for the public to see. There is a lot to it and there will be a lot to negotiate. **Sarah Kliff** at **Vox.com** helped us glean the following:

Some of Obamacare's signature features are gone immediately, such as the tax on people who don't purchase health care.

The plan maintains the Medicaid expansion - for now. The replacement plan benefits people who are healthy and high-income, and disadvantages those who are sicker and lower-income.

The House bill looks a lot more like Obamacare than previous drafts.

The AHCA would end Medicaid expansion in 2020. The AHCA bans discrimination against those with preexisting conditions — but charges more to people who have a break in coverage.

The AHCA would let insurers charge older enrollees more.

The AHCA provides tax credits for the individual market that would benefit high-income Americans.

The AHCA kills a new tax on employer-sponsored coverage — but keeps Obamacare taxes around for a year.

According to **Michelle Ewing** at **The Statesman** these are the five things you need to know:

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**1. What are the main differences between the new plan and the ACA?** The GOP proposal would scrap Obamacare's tax penalties on individuals and large employers and "replace income-based subsidies ... with age-based tax credits that may be skimpier for people with low incomes," The **Associated Press** reported. And the new plan would no longer require insurers to "cover 10 categories of 'essential health benefits'" and instead let states decide, according to the **AP**. The American Health Care Act also would block federal funding to Planned Parenthood for a year and would take aim at Medicaid, limiting federal funding. But the new plan would allow states to keep enrolling people under the Medicaid expansion until 2020.

**2. Which Obamacare provisions remain in the House GOP plan?** The proposal would let children stay on their parents' health insurance plans until age 26, maintain some consumer protections and keep a ban on annual or lifetime coverage limits. It also protects people who have pre-existing conditions – with a catch: "They'd have to maintain 'continuous coverage,' and a significant break could lead to a 30 percent penalty on top of their premiums, for up to a year," the **AP** reported.

**3. Would the new plan cover as many people as the ACA?** Probably not. Although official estimates haven't been released, "aides from both parties and nonpartisan analysts have said they expect those numbers to be lower" than the 20 million covered under Obamacare, the **AP** reported.

[Click here to read the bill](#)

**4. What's next?** According to **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**, "a pair of House committees is scheduled to take up the legislation later this week. GOP leaders are looking to advance it by Easter."

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**5. What are people saying?** Many GOP lawmakers withheld their judgment. "I'm excited that they're beginning to expose some of the thinking behind this," Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., said, according to the **AJC**. "We don't have all the pieces to it yet, obviously, but the mandates - that's a no-brainer ... I'm going to wait and see the rest of it."

Republicans have been all about the money for many decades. It looks from here like they're going to be doing serious battle in the Congress making acceptable fixes to the ACA and crafting a replacement that won't have the effect of un-insuring tens of millions of patients nationwide.

Hold on to your hats, troops. This one's a doozie because it's all about the money!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, March 13, 2017**

*The Fight for 2018*

Well, I've written about the Democrats' dramatic loss in 2016 and why President **Donald Trump** won the Electoral College by such a wide margin - after losing the popular vote convincingly. And, I've even offered some advice on how they can win in 2018 and 2020. But, I don't think my words were heard any more than a butterfly's breath in the wind.

The Dems elected former U.S. Labor Secretary **Tom Perez** as their head honcho at the end of last month. It was that or turn the party over to far-left Progressives under the guidance of radical Rep. **Keith Ellison** of Minnesota. Ellison was made Deputy Chair of the party in a move to encourage unity. The **Clinton/Obama** bunch was successful (again) in scuttling the progressive plans to take over the party by **Bernie Sanders** and his socialist cohort.

The new leadership pledged the Democrat Party is going to get back to organizing at the grass-roots level again ... something they forgot about in 2016. The thrust will be to rebuild the party by concentrating on the base in every one of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. They want to attract the white male working-class back into the fold. That is gonna be a tall order.

The Democrats have strayed so far to the left that they ignored the folks that have been the backbone of the party since the days of Roosevelt. Blue-collar Union workers found themselves out in the cold, not represented by anyone and generally ignored in favor of the fringes made up of black and brown activists, feminists, teachers Unions, LGBTQs, SEIU organizers and hordes of Snowflakes. They left the party because they were marginalized, especially by Hillary Clinton who spoke clearly that mining and manufacturing were going

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to be shut down by more stringent **EPA** rules designed to save the planet from Climate Change. Working-class white men left the party in droves because they were promised "retraining" after their jobs were gone. Imagine that!

Well folks, the crazies have taken over the asylum! The radicals have been hard at it, pulling every trick in **Saul Alinski's** book - to create hate and discontent among party members and redirecting it at Republicans and the new Trump Administration. **Glenn Beck** said back in January of 2010, "***Cloward and Piven** - they're using the same tactics: fear and intimidation of **SDS**. **Cloward and Piven** - overwhelm the system.*"

The next 20 months should be interesting, what with far left elements bent on destruction of any semblance of order and decorum versus centrist Democrats looking to rejuvenate the party by retaking middle America and the Rust belt. This could be a hard row to hoe because one of the central reasons white blue-collar workers left the party was behavior of the left-wing whackos.

Party leadership failed to understand that anarchy and order are at polar opposites of the political spectrum and that violent demonstrations are completely at odds with the Union way of life. The party's failure to get the whackos under control was its downfall. That... and failure to corral the key states needed to win the Electoral College.

Democrats have to get their eyes on the prize and keep them there in 2018 by retaking the Senate and 2020 by retaking the Presidency. The odds of that happening are really long ... the Dems need three seats to take back control of the Senate but in reality there are only three contested seats. That means the Dems have to take all three and keep the ones they have now. One seat belongs to **Jeff Flake**, the Arizona Republican Mormon almost guaranteed reelection. I'll call this 30-1 Flake.

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Another belongs to Republican **Dean Heller** of Nevada - a state that loves its Democrats and one that could be hard because Harry's kid **Rory Reid** is chompin' at the bit. I've got Heller 1.5-1.

Republicans in Texas still have a while to get over **Ted Cruz**' refusal to endorse Donald Trump at the RNC last year. He may face some competition, but probably not serious because there are no recognizable names in the Dems Texas hopper. This one is probably on the order of 20-1 Cruz.

Two of the three races are close to shoe-ins at a combined 25-1 odds of keeping both seats. That leaves Nevada - a squeaker, but still a win in my book - unless Heller decides to run for Nevada Governor ... which would make the Senate GOP 51 - Dem 47 - Ind 2. Close but no cigar.

I think the two Senate Independents will keep their seats. But, we haven't touched on the fight to keep the seated Democrats in power. There are 23 Dem seats up for grabs in 2018 ... "experts" are predicting as many as 10 will loose to the GOP. That would have the upper chamber looking like GOP 61 - Dem 37 - Ind 2. Don't try to take that to the bank, folks - I'm just guessin' here!

Bernie Sanders was quoted last week in the **Huffington Post**, *"I think from a moral perspective as well as good politics that you cannot just be defensive,"* he said. *"You need a proactive agenda that brings people together to fight for a new America."* I have to agree with Bernie. However, whether the Democrat party will nix the negativity and take on a positive *proactive agenda* remains to be seen.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, March 16, 2017**

The Russians Did It!

According to **CNN**, *"More Americans voted for Hillary Clinton than any other losing presidential candidate in US history. The Democrat outpaced President-elect Donald Trump by almost 2.9 million votes, with 65,844,954 (48.2%) to his 62,979,879 (46.1%), according to revised and certified final election results from all 50 states and the District of Columbia."*

That's a respectable margin, to be sure. **CNN**: *"Clinton's 2.1% margin ranks third among defeated candidates, according to statistics from **US Elections Atlas**. Andrew Jackson won by more than 10% in 1824 but was denied the presidency, which went to John Quincy Adams. In 1876, Samuel Tilden received 3% more votes than Rutherford B. Hayes, who eventually triumphed by one electoral vote."*

Just for fun, let's ask some facetious questions here:

Did the United Kingdom hijack the Jackson and Tilden presidential races because it lost the war of 1812?

Was Vladimir Putin, the newly-elected President of Russia, the reason Bush beat Gore by one-half of one per-cent in 2000? Was it Putin who "fixed" the Supreme Court back then?

Is there any hard evidence at all that somehow Russian President Vladimir Putin influenced the outcome of the 2016 Presidential Election?

You want answers? You **Google**. "Evidence of Russian influence on 2016 US election?"

**Hillary Clinton** at 3rd Presidential Debate - speaking to Trump: *"It's pretty clear you won't admit that the Russians have engaged*



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*in cyberattacks against the United States of America, that you encouraged espionage against our people, that you are willing to spout the Putin line, sign up for his wish list, break up NATO, do whatever he wants to do, and that you continue to get help from him, because he has a very clear favorite in this race."*

This from **Politifact**: *The CIA concluded Russia meddled in the election with the intent to help Trump, rather than to disrupt the election generally. ... However, the ... FBI isn't as confident in this conclusion. These stories are all based on anonymous sources and cannot be independently verified."*

More **Politifact**: *"The federal intelligence community, as well as private cybersecurity analysts, are confident that Russian actors were behind the [DNC] hack. The Homeland Security Department [DHS] and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence [DNI] issued a joint statement Oct. 7 saying they believed people at the top levels of Russian government directed the attack in an attempt to interfere in the election. Some private security researchers also believe Russians stole and leaked emails from Clinton's campaign manager John Podesta."*

**New York Times**: *"the FBI ... found no evidence of a direct connection between the Trump campaign and the Russian government."*

**University of Wisconsin-Madison** professor **Yoshiko Herrera**: *"Even if something is consistent with Russian government interests, it doesn't mean the Russian government did it."*

**University of Washington** Professor **Scott Radnitz**, *"There is likely some truth to some of these allegations, but there has also been a bit of Russia hysteria recently on the part of some pundits, politicians and media."*

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Again, **Politifact**: *"we found that there isn't conclusive proof of Russian involvement for some of these claims, and whether Putin truly prefers President Trump remains an open question."*

**New York Times**: *"The [January 2017] report [issued by The Office of the Director of National Intelligence] described a broad [Russian] campaign that included covert operations, including cyberactivities and 'trolling' on the internet of people who were viewed as opponents of Russia's effort. While it accused Russian intelligence agencies of obtaining and maintaining 'access to elements of multiple U.S. state or local electoral boards,' it concluded - as officials have publicly - that there was no evidence of tampering with the tallying of the vote Nov. 8."*

**President Barack Obama's** administration said in a statement it believes that *"our elections were free and fair from a cybersecurity perspective."*

**Rush Limbaugh**, the conservative talk show host liberals love to hate, was on **Fox News Sunday** a while back talking with host **Chris Wallace**. El Rushbo said something I'll bet few have stopped to consider. *"Who's driving this business that the Russians hacked the election? It's the Democrat Party. It's Hillary. It's Obama. It's all those people who just can't accept that they lost. ... This business that the Russians hacked the election ... this is a serious, serious allegation that is impossible. The Russians could not have had any impact whatsoever on voting - either how they were cast or how they were counted. In fact, if you want to say they did - they did their job, because Hillary won the popular vote!"*

House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** has called for US Attorney General **Jeff Sessions'** resignation because he met with the Russian Ambassador to the US during the 2016

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political campaign. Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** also called for his resignation. Sessions, in response, declared that he met twice with the Ambassador in his capacity as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and not in any way involving the campaign. Both Pelosi and Schumer claimed that Sessions lied under oath before Committee when he stated that he never had communications with Russian Officials. While he was being vetted in his confirmation hearings, Sessions was asked if he had any communications with the Russians about the election. According to **The Drudge Report**, *"Mr. Sessions replied that he was 'not aware of any of those activities.' He added: 'I have been called a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign, and I didn't have - did not have communications with the Russians, ... and I'm unable to comment on it.'"* Both GOP and Democrat leaders were suggesting that Sessions should recuse himself from investigations into the alleged Russian interference. Asked by a news crew on the street Thursday if he would do that, he said, *"Whenever it's appropriate."* At a news conference later that day, he did recuse himself. Meanwhile, Speaker of the House **Paul Ryan** said the Democrats were *"setting their hair on fire."*

A paragraph in the March 2nd issue of **The Federalist** sums it up pretty well: *"Democrats may think the leaks about Sessions' story is one more reason to believe the Russian connection is the key to toppling the president even though there is still no proof that these meetings have anything to do with their underlying charge of a conspiracy to steal the election. Yet they would do well to recall the way the memory of Benghazi and the politically inspired lies told about it never ceased to outrage Republicans. That belief proved to be a major distraction for them as they spent Obama's second term focusing on an issue that was never going to yield anything that could derail either Obama or Clinton. If Democrats spend the next four years making the same*

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*mistake about Trump and Russia, they will regret a decision that may divert the public from Trump's shortcomings and do their own cause little good."*

In the **National Review** Friday was this offering from **Andrew McCarthy**: "... *there is no crime here except the ones committed by Russian intelligence. There is no evidence that Trump or his associates had any complicity in those hacking crimes. When all of the smoke is cleared away, the Democrats' beef is that Trump may have benefited from Russia's crimes. In reality, it is highly unlikely that the Russian hacking of Democratic e-mails had any effect on the outcome of the election. Even if we indulge the fantasy that it did, however, here's the sad news the media won't tell you: It is not a crime to benefit from other people's crimes.*"

In the January 20th edition of the **New York Times** reporter **Michael S. Schmidt** upheld the rumor that the Trump team had connections to Russia, and to support his claim he said Trump's people were wiretapped. "*It is not clear whether the intercepted communications had anything to do with Mr. Trump's campaign, or Mr. Trump himself. ... One official said intelligence reports based on some of the wiretapped communications had been provided to the White House.*"

On Saturday, March 4th The President tweeted that he was wiretapped. The Times reported that President Trump had no evidence to support his allegation. The story's bi-line was the very same Michael S. Schmidt who claimed in January that the government was wiretapping the Trump team, an assertion supposedly confirmed by at least one official.

I don't understand how the New York Times can claim in January that the Trump team was wiretapped - a story confirmed by government sources - and yet claim there is no evidence to support the claim in March.

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***Inconclusive.*** That's the operative word. Google your brains out! I could find no conclusive evidence that Russian President Vladimir Putin contributed in any way, had a hand in or ordered directly, interference of any sort with the November 8th election. Both former President Obama and the DNI came to the same conclusions. However, there is evidence that Russian operatives, in concert with independent hackers and **WikiLeaks**, had a hand in the DNC and Podesta hacks. And ... there is copious evidence - albeit unofficial evidence from mostly former government officials and CIA documents leaked by WikiLeaks - that the US intelligence community has been eavesdropping on the Trump administration as well as Russia.

Let's stop pussy-footing around this issue. The United States messed with the last Israeli elections. So did Russia and China and Iran. Each major country in the world has interests in the outcome of elections in other countries. With the advent of cyber-hacking, those tasks have become easier. Like it or not, that's the way the big boys roll.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, March 20, 2017**

Trump is Not a Liar

There's been a lot of hard language around the mainstream media of late about our President and his lyin' eyes. Maybe so ... maybe not ... let's see.

I was listening to **KTAR** radio the other day and the two hosts (one host and one hostess) were trading insults about the President. The host said he will never trust the President to tell the truth because he's lied all the time about everything since first announcing for President. The Trump Tower "wire-taps" issue is just the icing on the cake. President Trump tweeted a while back that Barack Obama wire-tapped Trump Tower. Since that time the mainstream media and some in the congress have been having a field day with it. It seems like not a day goes by that Trump isn't excoriated for lying and providing no evidence. The Hostess tried, without effect, to make the point the Trump was speaking from a different position. I got what she was trying to say a long time ago. And even mentioned it in a column or two. Back on January 5th, I wrote, *"Trump won the presidential election because the mainstream media concentrated on his rhetoric and ignored the message, while voters embraced his message and ignored the rhetoric."*

**Donald Trump** does not speak platitudes. He speaks rhetorically, or better, figuratively. Trump condenses everything anybody would have to say about an issue into simple, straightforward prose. The **MSM** reports what he says literally! The citizens of America understand his figurative speaking. The press and many politicians do not.

Let me elaborate on a larger scale so there is no misunderstanding of my meaning.

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Trump said that Obama wire tapped Trump Tower. Here is the Trump tweet in its entirety: *"Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!"* Literally speaking, that means then-President **Barack Obama** ordered the wire tapping of the telephone lines in the Trump Tower. Folks out here in the boondocks understand his figure of speech to mean the guv'mint had been watching!

Not long ago wire tapping was an investigative technique used by the **FBI** and other government investigative bodies to gain access to personal conversations on land-line telephone systems. Originally, wire tapping was used as a tool by **J Edgar Hoover's** FBI to investigate mobsters back in the day. Eventually, a lawsuit was filed complaining that wiretaps were an unlawful invasion of privacy because Constitutionally there had to be "just cause" presented to a Judge who would decide whether or not to issue a warrant authorizing a search.

Since the early days of wire tapping the communications world has changed radically. Wire tapping has come to mean any lawfully-authorized means of eaves-dropping or spying on any type of communication, be it voice, land line, cell phone, teletype, fax, data transmission, video, satellite link, TV cable, optical fiber, infrared beam, , the "cloud," wireless (WiFi) and wire-linked internet, as well as any means utilizing any part of the electromagnetic spectrum ranging from sub-audible to infrared and beyond.

Over the years, the government's methods of wiretapping have changed also. Now, instead of simply connecting a listening device to a pair of wires, surveillance - as spying has come to be known - includes any means of obtaining information surreptitiously, with or without benefit of a warrant. Surveillance involving any American citizen must be

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authorized by a court-issued warrant. To spy on an American conversing with a foreign actor, individual or nation, or vice-versa, a **FISA** (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) court warrant must be obtained.

According to the several US Intelligence Agencies, it is policy that the President be advised of any new surveillance activities involving foreign actors, agents or nations. The President is briefed on all such activities daily.

This from an **American Spectator** story published March 14th:

"By now, it is clear that the essence of Trump's tweet — that the Obama administration investigated his campaign/business — is true. But by the time this is all over, it may even come out that his direct communications were compromised, either by FBI agents interviewing Trump employees about his computer server (a cagey FBI agent can get employees of a company to share anything) or through 'backdoor searches' that the intelligence community exploits, as related in this [March 11] **The Hill** story:

"The intelligence community may legally conduct so-called 'backdoor searches' of Americans' communications, without a warrant, if the target of the surveillance is not a U.S. citizen.

"If Trump or his advisors were speaking directly to foreign individuals who were the target of U.S. spying during the election campaign and the intelligence agencies recorded Trump by accident, it's plausible that those communications would have been collected and shared amongst intelligence agencies, surveillance law experts say.



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"Thanks to Obama's last-minute executive order [approving additions/changes to Bush era Executive Order 12333], 16 government agencies now have access to that data. That is how [National Security Advisor] **Michael Flynn**'s chat with the Russian ambassador ended up on the front page."

An article from **Reuters** late last week says, *"The Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee have said there's no evidence to support President Donald Trump's claim that the Obama administration tapped his phones during the 2016 presidential campaign."* According to the **Associated Press**, a statement issued by Republican Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman **Richard Burr** and Democrat Vice-Chair **Mark Warner** reads, *"Based on the information available to us, we see no indications that Trump Tower was the subject of surveillance by any element of the United States government either before or after Election Day 2016."* There is the possibility that someone in Trump's campaign was swept up in an incidental collection by speaking with someone under surveillance, House Committee Chair **Devin Nunes** said, but no one in the campaign was a target. *"We don't have any evidence that that took place."*

But, then you knew all that, right? Here's something we weren't aware of c/o **TheBlaze**:

"During a Tuesday morning appearance on **Fox News**' 'Fox and Friends,' senior judicial analyst **Andrew Napolitano**, a former New Jersey Superior Court judge, made the bombshell claim that 'three intelligence sources' told the network that Obama used **GCHQ**, a British intel agency, to spy on the Trump campaign in order to avoid any record of the alleged wiretapping.

"Three intelligence sources have informed Fox News that President Obama went outside the chain of command. He didn't use the NSA, he didn't use the CIA, he didn't use the

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FBI and he didn't use the Department of Justice,' Napolitano said. 'He used GCHQ.'"

So ... when Donald Trump said *"Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower"* he meant that a FISA court may have authorized the surveillance of anyone in Trump Tower communicating with a foreign entity - or maybe not. This is to say that inasmuch as the President is briefed daily of such activity, and he failed to disallow it, he authorized it ... or, according to Judge Andrew Napolitano, had it done ... or, as Devin Nunes alluded, maybe not. Nunes' House Committee will be holding its first public hearing today.

Can you imagine Trump saying something like *"Many years ago President Harry Truman said 'The buck stops here', referring to authorization of anything done by the government of the United States. That said, it has come to my attention that Trump Tower was under surveillance by at least one Intelligence agency beginning sometime in October of last year. I do not have any physical evidence that a FISA warrant was issued on or about October 15th, but there have been so many leaks to the mainstream media that there is little doubt such a warrant may exist. As a result of these revelations, I've asked the Attorney General to empanel an investigative team to determine whether President Barack Obama had any part in the authorization of such activities in concert with any political party or individual participating in the Presidential election of 2016."* Nope, neither you nor I can imagine Donald Trump talking that way. *"I don't think there was an actual tap of Trump Tower,"* House Intelligence Committee Chair Devin Nunes told **CBS News** last week. Nunes said that if Mr. Trump's allegations are taken literally, then *"clearly the president was wrong."* To reiterate what I wrote in January, *"Voters embraced his message and ignored the rhetoric."* In other words, he said what he did in shorthand!

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Kentucky Senator **Rand Paul** was on ABC's **This Week** yesterday. Senator Paul said that when it comes to intelligence leaks and surveillance, there is at least one thing Americans can be sure of: that the Obama administration “did spy” on National Security Advisor Michael Flynn.

The mainstream media so despises Trump that it always takes the President literally instead of figuratively. They forget that the literal truth is not necessarily the whole story and they rarely dig for it anymore. Is President Donald J Trump a liar? My best estimation is no, Trump is not a liar. He just ain't from around these parts, so he sorta talks funny!

But then, that's just my opinion. By now, you've probably formulated your own.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, March 23, 2017**

The Toaster Oven?

Almost two weeks ago, during an interview with **The Bergen Record**, Presidential Advisor **Kellyanne Conway** claimed, *"There was an article this week that talked about how you can surveil someone through their phone, through their television sets, any number of different ways, microwaves that turn into cameras, etc. So we know that's just a fact of modern life."*

**Marcus Gilmer** discussed the issue on **Mashable.com**.

"But microwaves becoming a camera? That's... not a thing, I have no idea what article Conway was referencing but it's probable she's getting microwave ovens confused with microwave cameras, which, yes, can be used for surveillance purposes.

"Or she's referencing this smart toaster oven from June which *does* connect to WiFi and has a camera inside for watching your food cook in case the glass door of the oven isn't enough for you."

Spied on by your Toaster Oven? Ok. You may recall the following from my article last week:

*"Wire tapping has come to mean any lawfully-authorized ways of eaves-dropping or spying on any type of communication, be it voice, land line, cell phone, teletype, fax, data transmission, video, satellite link, TV cable, optical fiber, infrared beam, , the "cloud," wireless (WiFi) and wire-linked internet, as well as any means utilizing any part of the electromagnetic spectrum ranging from sub-audible to infrared and beyond."*

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How can they watch or listen to your stuff at home? All it takes is "smart" gadgets. Any gizmo that communicates via WiFi (like that Toaster Oven) will do the trick. Of course, the most common (and obvious) would be a smart 'phone like almost every kid seems to have these days.

Electronic communication is really pretty simple. You need something with which to send and receive. Something with output and input. **INPUT!!!** Johnny Five is **alive!**

Sometimes you can see the exchange of output and input on a communications device (like a modem, for instance) where a little light (an LED) blinks every time something comes or goes. Sometimes there are two lights. One showing output, the other showing input.

Where does the information go? Where does it come from? Information (data) goes up and down a cable or out in the air like a radio signal (WiFi) or via a satellite dish.

How fast does information go back and forth? Well, in the early '80s most signals went by wire at what was called 600 baud - 600 bits of information (data) per second - that was pretty fast. 600 baud is still a standard for Fax machines. If you listen very carefully, close to the machine, you can actually hear the 600 baud Fax signal! Kinda like "beebly beebly-de beebly."

Nowadays, you hear "data transfer speed" referred to as "Gs" or "gigs." Surely, you've heard of 4G signals for your smart 'phone. That simply means a combination of speed and signal strength (WiFi). 4G is about as good as it gets. According to **whatsag.com**, *"The speed and standards of this technology of wireless needs to be at least 100 Megabits per second and up to 1 Gigabit per second to pass as 4G. It also needs to share the network resources to support more simultaneous*

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*connections on the cell. As it develops, 4G [4th Generation] could surpass the speed of the average wireless broadband home Internet connection."* I just like the idea that it's fast and available for dolts like me!

Now, where were we? Oh, yeah! Spying with a smart device - like that Toaster Oven! Instruments that work with WiFi are fodder for spies. Smart TVs, home and business security systems, laptop and table-top computers, tablets and smart 'phones are all great for surreptitious snooping! There really is no way to keep serious spies out of your stuff - that's why anti-virus software is so huge.

I garone-damn-tee ... unless your machines are all turned off and any batteries removed, your stuff ain't safe from surveillance! You don't need to worry, though. Who in the world would want any of your stuff, anyway?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, March 27, 2017**

What Does It Take?

Some years ago, **Lawrence Meyer**, reporter and editor between 1969 and 2001 at **The Washington Post**, wrote a story on how the U S Senate passes a bill. Here's most of it:

Even senators speaking on the record obscure the truth. [WaPo ...] quoted Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid**: *“I have a responsibility to get a bill on the Senate floor that will get 60 votes,” Reid said. ‘That’s my number one responsibility, and there are times when I have to set aside my personal preferences for the good of the Senate and I think the country.’”*

In fact, Reid does not need 60 votes to *pass* a bill. He needs 60 votes in order to allow the Senate to *vote* on a bill, something The Post didn't bother to explain in this instance.

That failure to explain is too often the case. It's hard enough to understand the legislative process without misrepresenting it. What Reid meant was that 60 votes were needed to break the ever-present threat of a filibuster, not to actually pass the bill. Last month, the Senate took up an amendment to the Defense appropriation bill. The amendment would have made a concealed weapon carry permit from one state valid in all 50 states regardless of whether or not concealed weapons were valid in the other states.

The amendment received 58 votes in favor, but it still failed to pass. **USA Today**, the largest circulating daily newspaper in America, carried an **AP** story that reported: *"The vote was 58-39 in favor of the*

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*provision establishing concealed carry permit reciprocity in the 48 states that have concealed weapons laws. That fell two votes short of the 60 needed to approve the measure, offered as an amendment to a Defense spending bill."*

**New York Times** readers were told, "*A group comprising mostly Republicans, along with some influential Democrats, had tried to attach the gun amendment to the annual military authorization bill, a must-pass piece of legislation. But the provision got only 58 votes, two short of the 60 needed under Senate rules.*"

That got closer to describing the situation, but still didn't quite do it, though the Times story did present a rare example of using the word "comprise" properly.

The Washington Post that time got it right: "*The measure, introduced by Senator **John Thune** (R-South Dakota), gained the support of all but two Republicans and 20 Democrats, but the vote of 58 to 39 in favor fell two short of the 60 votes needed to end a filibuster.*"

A distinction without a difference, some might say. Journalists, for reasons of time and space, often use shorthand. As a practical matter, some might argue, if a filibuster is threatened and it takes 60 votes to end debate in the Senate, then it *does* take 60 votes to pass a bill.

Nothing in the Constitution says that a three-fifths majority is necessary to pass ordinary legislation. The repeated use of terms like "short of the 60 votes needed" or "It takes 60 votes" or "60 votes are



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needed” to pass a bill in the Senate certainly gives that impression. That might be the case, but it’s rarely explained to the public in those terms.

Americans revere the Constitution. They might revere the Senate less - assuming they revere it all - if they understood the process better. If the public understood that 41 senators can prevent the Senate from even *voting* on a measure, how tolerant would the public be?

And, by the way, those 41 senators might represent as little as 12 percent of the U.S. population.

In the past 40 years—and even more so in the past 10 years—the filibuster, or just the threat of one, has been used increasingly to stifle legislation. **Norman Ornstein**, the highly respected Congressional scholar, wrote last year [2007] that, *“In the 1970s, the average number of cloture motions filed in a given month was less than two; it moved to around three a month in the 1990s. This Congress [the 110th], we are on track for two or more a week. The number of cloture motions filed in 1993, the first year of the **Clinton** presidency, was 20. It was 21 in 1995, the first year of the newly Republican Senate. As of the end of the first session of the 110th Congress, there were 60 cloture motions, nearing an all-time record.”*

Yes, it’s true that the Senate was designed by the Founding Fathers to put a check on the more rambunctious House of Representatives; and yes, it’s also true that the Senate makes its own rules, and it’s certainly true that at one time or other some proposal that many of us thought was very bad was denied passage by using a filibuster or the threat of one. But

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wouldn't it be better if we got a full description of the process when a minority can block the majority?

*Meyer was the lead reporter for the Post covering Senate Watergate hearings and Watergate break-in trial.*

Of course, since that was written, Harry Reid has been replaced by **Mitch McConnell** in the Senate. Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** is almost as nasty as Reid used to be!

To be clear, 60 votes are required to get a Bill to the floor for a vote. Only 51 are required to pass the Bill. When a filibuster is in progress, a vote for cloture (to stop the filibuster) requires 60 votes. If cloture doesn't pass, the Bill doesn't get to the floor. Presidential appointments, including lower federal courts, require only 51 votes. Harry Reid made lower court appointments by a simple majority possible with the "Nuclear Option" which left the 60 vote rule intact only for Supreme Court nominees. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said last week that he would lead a Democrat filibuster of SCOTUS nominee **Neil Gorsuch**. The President suggested earlier this year that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell invoke the Nuclear Option if Democrats persist in their threat to filibuster Gorsuch. Such a change in the rules needs only a simple majority.

Then there was the craziness in the House last week. Good grief, Charley Brown!

I wrote a note to **Fox News** the other day about their coverage of the House last week over the replace/repair of ObamaCare: *"I can't imagine why you're covering the making of Congressional sausage the way you are! This is a nasty, grubby process that takes months - even years - to get the job done. They were able to pass Healthcare bills through both Houses that were vetoed by President **Obama**. Where are the*

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*details on those bills that made it through? Where's the non-sensational story about how a bill is made and passed by both houses? Remember 1976 and **Schoolhouse Rock's I'm Just A Bill** ? <https://youtu.be/tyeJ55o3El0> Watch it again and then do some REAL news about the congressional lawmaking process!"*

Friday, the American Health Care Bill was removed from the House floor indefinitely because the Republican majority was unable to put together enough votes to pass it. After seven years of passing Bills killing ObamaCare, only to have them vetoed by President Obama, the Republicans blew it! Looks to me like there were too many chiefs and not enough Indians. A conservative faction insisted on a number of points that a moderate faction couldn't agree to - and vice-versa ... leaving passage of the Bill 30 to 40 shy of a simple 218 vote majority.

Both Speaker Paul Ryan and President Trump said Friday that the next project is a tax Bill.

"What we've got here," as Strother Martin said in **Cool Hand Luke**, "is failure to communicate." Maybe so ... maybe not.

The AHCA failed muster because the leadership, the President and all the mainstream media sensationalized the need to pass the thing in a hurry. Anything else meant the Republicans would look bad for not living up to their campaign promises.

House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** was all over this thing, first calling the President's push to pass the Bill before the necessary votes were lined up a "*rookie's error*", and when they failed to put together a majority she gloated, "*Today is a great day for our country, it's a victory - what happened on the floor is a victory for the American people, for our seniors,*

#### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

*for people with disabilities, for our children, for our veterans ... it's about the 155 million people who receive their health benefits in the workplace who will not be assaulted by some of the provisions that the Republicans put in the bill, especially last night when they removed the essential benefits package."*

Let's hope they take their time with the Tax Package - time to make sure a clear majority is lined up before bringing the thing to the floor for a vote. No more "rookie errors."

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, March 30, 2017**

Bernie Sanders' Medicare

US Senator **Bernie Sanders** put together a new healthcare proposal that I'm inclined to support.

Sanders appeared on last Sunday's edition of "**State of the Union**." He told CNN's **Dana Bash** that he's going to introduce legislation that outlines a "*Medicare-for-all, single-payer*" health care plan. Sanders said he wants President **Donald Trump** to help advance it. *"Ideally, where we should be going is to join the rest of the industrialized world and guarantee health care to all people as a right ... That's why I'm going to introduce a Medicare-for-all, single-payer program."*

There's a lot to be said for the existing Medicare single-payer system as it stands.

**First**, costs are held in check because the government negotiates with healthcare providers annually over how what amounts will be paid for what services. As it stands right now, Medicare covers a wide variety of supplies and services with little or no restrictions on what providers a patient can utilize.

**Second**, there is a modest monthly premium paid by the consumer to Medicare that covers 80% of just about everything you could imagine except for drug prescriptions and routine visual, dental and aural services. Policies covering up to the remaining 20% of patient costs, as well as prescriptions, are available through a broad assemblage of regular insurance companies ranging from **Aetna** to **Blue Cross-Blue Shield** to **State Farm** and even

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**AARP/UnitedHealthcare.** These Medicare Supplements, as they are called, have deductibles that range from zero to several thousand dollars per year and can be tailored to meet patient needs.

**Third,** Medicare is already an established, self-sustaining system funded by payroll deductions. According to the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**, *"The 2016 report of Medicare's trustees finds that Medicare's Hospital Insurance (HI) trust fund will remain solvent - that is, able to pay 100 percent of the costs of the hospital insurance coverage that Medicare provides - through 2028. ... [However], the Medicare hospital insurance program will not run out of all financial resources and cease to operate after 2028, as the 'bankruptcy' term may suggest. ... Congress could close the projected funding gap by raising the Medicare payroll tax - now 1.45 percent each for employers and employees - to about 1.8 percent. ... The 2028 date does not apply to Medicare coverage for physician and outpatient costs or to the Medicare prescription drug benefit; these parts of Medicare do not face insolvency and cannot run short of funds."*

**Fourth,** unlike Medicaid, Medicare is not directed toward largely indigent populations. It was designed originally to provide affordable healthcare for people over 64 years of age. Part "A" catastrophic hospital coverage is provided at no charge to Social Security recipients. Part "B" covers in-patient, out-patient and office visits with premiums automatically deducted from Social Security payments. Part "B" is not mandatory, but its premiums go up depending on when that option is taken. Premiums for folks who signed up at age 65 are substantially less than for those who opted for, let's say, 69 or 70.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

At age 76, my Medicare Part A is free. The Part B premium is deducted from my monthly Social Security payment. I signed up for Part B at age 65. It costs me \$99.90 per month and pays 80% of qualifying charges. Part F pays what Medicare does not, including the Medicare annual deductible, and costs \$147.94 per month with a policy annual deductible of \$250. On top of that, I'm carrying Part D drug coverage for \$71.30 per month with small co-pays ranging from zero to \$45, depending on the drug classification. Without Part D my monthly drugs would cost in the range of \$300.

So, my total out-of-pocket expense for healthcare is \$319.14 per month with another \$20 in drug co-pays. Annual blood tests, annual medical procedures, drugs, office visits, emergency room visits - all covered ... every penny, after the \$250 annual deductible (and the drug co-pay), is covered 100%! That's all - that's it!

I'm paying my own way with Social Security, Supplement payments and drug co-pays. A paltry \$339 per month is chump-change in the healthcare game - especially when you consider the horror stories about ObamaCare premiums, coverage, and annual deductibles.

The good part about Medicare is the patient is in control of the amount of coverage and its cost. Isn't that what the Republicans campaigned on in the 2016 election cycle? From no cost Part A, up to about \$100 adding Part B, increasing to around \$300 with Part F or G, and topping out at \$350 or so with Part D added. Now, apply those numbers to the entire population. A teenager could opt for Part A and be covered for catastrophes. A young working man could easily afford the cost of Part B with no supplement. Middle-aged working folks could add Parts F or G and D with little or no discomfort. Hospitals, physicians and insurance carriers are all in the mix with Medicare. As confusing and inefficient as

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

the program can be, it sure beats the dickens out of the Affordable Care Act.

Bernie's program would certainly ease the burden on employers who now pay large ObamaCare premiums for their employees as well as the 1.45% Medicare contribution. Medicaid could be completely eliminated and Medicare coverage extended to all Americans with an increase of the employer/employee contribution to 2.45% each.

The sticky wicket is the cost of prescription drugs. Perhaps the current administration will help remove some of the costly government regulations imposed by the FDA. Hopefully they will remove the policy that keeps foreign competitors out of the US drug market. That free-market approach would create precipitous drops in the cost of drugs for Americans.

This week, Alabama Rep **Mo Brooks** filed a House Bill titled the "Obamacare Repeal Act." It's just one sentence: *"Effective as of December 31, 2017, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) is repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such Act are restored or revived as if such Act had not been enacted."* That would work well with the Bernie Bill.

I like Sanders' Medicare-for-all single-payer program - as long as he doesn't get carried away with himself. Coupled with the Brooks Bill, implementation would be a matter of reducing or eliminating the eligibility age, eliminating Medicaid and deciding what subsidies should apply to whom. From that point, insurance companies in the free market can do battle for customers across state lines. I'm no liberal, as you know, but that sure sounds like a winner to me.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Monday, April 3, 2017**

### *Tough Talk from Friends*

Among my twice-weekly readers is a very small hard-core group of liberal-minded individuals. I'm grateful that they are also good friends with good hearts.

One is a construction magnate who has been responsible for many of Arizona's infrastructure projects and has been a mover and shaker in the background of economic development in my part of the country.

A second is a past Postmaster, Mayor and County Supervisor - a guy who has devoted many decades of this life in service to his community.

A third is a powerful liberal organizer who has extensive experience in government and business and has devoted a good part of his life fighting to assure a fair shake for undocumented hispanic immigrants.

These guys are not bad people just because they believe in many liberal causes - in my humble estimation they are patriots. In the face of my conservative tomes they have no problem standing up and making me understand why the Democrats have such a hard time speaking like humans. Angry old geezers yelling ill-mannered epithets with no positive agenda in mind could well be the reason they will lose both election cycles in 2018 and 2020.

We need to stop right here for a second and consider the raunchy language coming up. I always read my columns to my wife Claudette to catch any problems and get them fixed

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before we go to press. She was offended. I used the old asterisk trick to blot out parts of offensive words, ok?

One of my guys wrote a challenge in response to a column a week or so ago. Because of the previous paragraph, it is necessary that this gets quoted exactly, "... how 'bout sharing [this] with *The Wild Bunch*! I'd welcome their enlightening reactions. Bet they'd like to get a [thing] or two off their chest with some of us lame media-believin' libs. Go 'head, do it!"

Another of his notes wasn't quite as polite. "Dear Schm\*\*k, (I kin talk respectfully funny too). No, he's not a liar. He jes talks funny. Yup, that's it. Thank you, linguistics and ethics professor Thayer. You done well in your commitment to *Improvise*. Eeehaw! Damn you be good at this Trump deciphering sh\*t. Pass that stuff 'roun . . . we uns need a snort or two."

Another note went this way, "Hats off to you, read your article from top to bottom. You should be on Trumps staff. Really Ted, the world has not accepted rhetorically aimed speeches, and odds are never will. A lie is a lie is a lie."

This guy is more independent than liberal. "I heard on Fox [actually Morning Joe]this morning that at first President Trump thought that Obama was the second guy involved with OJ in the murder of those two unfortunates. He confirmed it two minutes into the interview. Obama, according to Trump's thinking, was the confirmed to be the second guy. 'These are bad guys, need to be brought to justice'. This done we can make America great again."

I like that these guys keep talking trash ... no matter how dead the horse happens to be. "When has it become okay for a United States Presidential Candidate to comment on grabbing a woman's pu\*\*y? Man obviously did in the past or he wouldn't have been bragging about it. Locker room talk? It's disgusting that our children, talking anyone under 18, would think that it's okay to talk about women like that.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

*Enlighten me, is it okay to talk that way? Dems, Republicans and Independents will continue their grab for power, sadly, at the expense of our morals."*

*Sometimes they actually gushed! "You know yourself that there has been the same anger and vitriol after the last two, maybe three elections. Nevertheless, this election has been like no other, the lies spewed by all the candidates (you'll recall my question about the lies to you early on in the race), the personal attacks by Trump have never been as destroying by past candidates. Of course, that inexcusable release by the FBI was well timed by Trump supporters. I could go on but you are very well aware of the cause for 'ire'.*

*"That said, let me ask you a few questions, do you not get the impression that Trump and family are laughing at the American public for being such dumb as\*es? The man insults his own voters for voting for him, even stating that some of their votes were not even needed. Do you honestly think, for example, that the Trump family will down-grade and move into the White House?*

*"Old adage, 'time will tell', will quickly be upon us."*

*More tangled language ... "Can't let this by, the Dems should quit picking on poor President Trump, let him live in his own alternative news world, hell, I honestly support the idea of letting him vacation 100% of the time. Come to think of it, pretty much what is happening now. Take a deep breath Ted..."*

*It got rough during the debates. "I hope you're watching the debate. Hillary is kicking Trump's a\*\*. He is a total idiot or as we say [...], a Stupid uuugggllly Pende\*o."*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

And ... *"Stick thus in poll. Hillary will kick Trumputo's a\*\*!!!!"*

But in amongst the harsh rhetoric are kind words of true friends. *"You're a good sport, but a dangerous writer in that some of your readers might not realize it's all satirical. It is, isn't it? :) I genuinely enjoy the repartee."*

So, you tell me ... Would you *"like to get a [thing] or two off your chest with some of [these] lame media-believin' libs?"*

Here's your shot, troops! Please try to be kind ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, April 6, 2017**

*Trump vs Schumer vs Paul vs Rice*

There's all this hoopla over the last month or more about this spying and stuff going on during the 2016 presidential campaign. "Holy cow!" as famed baseball sports announcer **Harry Caray** used to exclaim ... when are these people going to get their stuff together?

Four camps: **Donald Trump, Chuck Schumer, Rand Paul** and **Suzan Rice**.

The President wants the whole enchilada - healthcare reform, a simpler tax structure, repairs to the country's infrastructure, tighter border security, fair trade, safe streets, a strong military, Americans to feel free again. "We will make America strong again. We will make America wealthy again. We will make America proud again. We will make America safe again. And yes, together, we will make America great again," he proclaimed in his inaugural address. "The job of the President," he says, "is to keep America safe."

The Senate Minority Leader has been doing everything he can to punish the Republicans for not holding hearings on **Merrick Garland**, former President Obama's choice to replace the late Supreme Court Justice **Antonin Scalia**. Schumer endeavors at every turn to stir the hornets' nest about the Dems winning the popular vote but losing the Electoral College, blaming the whole brouhaha on the Russians, ballot tampering and dirty tricks ... and continuing to dole out verbal punishment any time a conservative speaks up in the Senate.

Kentucky Senator Rand Paul is an Ophthalmologist who has had an eye on the country's troubles with healthcare for years.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

The self-described libertarian Republican played golf with the President last Sunday and discussed with him - at length - the serious politics and stark realities involved in the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. He's not giving up. Paul understands how difficult the task is. And so does the President. Keeping sick people from being dropped from the healthcare system is the number one priority.

Then, there is the Susan Rice spectacle. Apparently the liberals don't get it. Revealing publicly the names of innocent Americans speaking with people from other countries is not lawful. She, in her position as the White House's National Security Advisor, did not demand, did not authorize, but only asked that the names of Americans be released to folks with an interest in such things. It seems like the whole press corps (and associated leakers) had an interest in who was being monitored during the presidential campaign. Seems like President Trump was right in charging that the White House was "wire-tapped"... the **FBI**, **CIA**, and/or the **NSA** or some something-or-other outfit actually were surveilling the campaign and the Trump White House ... and reporting their findings to Susan Rice (and, therefore, President Obama.) She was not on the payroll after January 20th, 2017.

Rice flatly told **NBC's Andrea Mitchell** Tuesday, "*The allegation is that somehow, Obama administration officials utilized intelligence for political purposes. That's absolutely false. There was no such collection or surveillance on Trump Tower or Trump individuals, it is important to understand, directed by the White House or targeted at Trump individuals.*"

You probably recall Rice's blatant lie about the 2012 Benghazi disaster. She publicly addressed the attack on no less than five Sunday morning shows, claiming that an obscure **YouTube** video was responsible for the resultant

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

death and destruction. The "wire-tapping" issue is no different.

Adding to the increasing collection of evidence that Rice is really good at fabricating whoppers, **Investors Business Daily** opined yesterday, *"... what suggests that the Trump team members caught in this spy web weren't merely 'incidental,' but were actually the targets of the operation, is that Rice reportedly ordered spreadsheets 'prepared' of the phone calls involving Trump, his aides and transition officials. This suggests that, contrary to Rice's assertion, they were being targeted. It's evidence of intent, basically."*

The sad thing about Rice, though, is that she was just a shill for the Obama administration and Washington's Liberal Aristocracy. It's too bad - she'll be the 'goat and eventually take the fall.

Meanwhile, President Trump appears unfazed with the negativity floating around Washington, Chuck Schumer is digging that Hole of Hate ever deeper, and Rand Paul just keeps on truckin'. What was it Harry Caray said? "Holy Cow!"

If you're interested, there's more to read about Rice's NBC/MSNBC interview here:

<https://theconservativetreehouse.com/2017/04/04/in-less-than-2-minutes-on-msnbc-susan-rice-exposed-the-entire-obama-russian-motive/>

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, April 10, 2017**

### *Just Keep Talking*

Well, at the President's suggestion, **Mitch McConnell** pulled the "nuclear option" out of the hat last week and eliminated the filibuster for all presidential nominations. The "nuclear" phrase came out of the US Senate 12 years ago. **Wikipedia** describes the process thus:

"In 2005, a group of Republican senators led by Majority Leader **Bill Frist** floated the idea of having **Dick Cheney** - who, as vice president, was also president of the Senate - rule that a filibuster on judicial nominees was inconsistent with the constitutional grant of power to the president to name judges with the advice and consent of a simple majority of senators. This was a response to the Democrats' threat to filibuster some judicial nominees of President **George W. Bush**. Senator **Trent Lott**, the junior senator from Mississippi, used the word 'nuclear' to describe the plan, and so it became known as the 'nuclear option'.

"Despite ... changes [in 2013], 60 votes were still required to overcome a filibuster, and the 'silent filibuster' - in which a senator can delay a bill even if they leave the floor - remained in place.

"On November 21, 2013, [led by Majority Leader **Harry Reid**], the Senate used the so-called 'nuclear option', voting 52-48 - with all Republicans and three Democrats voting against - to eliminate the use of the filibuster on executive branch nominees and judicial nominees, except to the Supreme Court. At the time of



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

the vote, there were 59 executive branch nominees and 17 judicial nominees awaiting confirmation.

"On April 6, 2017, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called a vote to end the filibuster ... for Supreme Court nominees so that with a simple majority Judge **Neil Gorsuch**, President **Donald Trump**'s nominee, [could] be confirmed to the highest court. The vote to change the rules was 52 to 48 that was along party lines. After the rules change, 55 senators voted to set Gorsuch's confirmation vote for April 7. Gorsuch was confirmed 54-45 with three Democrats crossing party lines."

The filibuster has never been a part of the US Constitution, contrary to what the nay-sayers will tell you. Instead, the Senate has the right to run its own affairs and make up its own rules in accordance with Article 1 Section 5 of the Constitution, "*Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings ...*" So, last week's discarding of the cloture requirement when it comes to Presidential appointments is just part of doing battle. Senate Minority Leader Schumer opined, "*When history weighs what happened, the responsibility for changing the rules will fall on the Republicans' and Leader McConnell's shoulders.*" Yeah, well, that could easily change in the future, depending on whose ox is being gored!

The longest filibuster of all time was made by Democrat Senator **Strom Thurmond** of South Carolina. In a bid to stop the Civil Rights Act of 1957, he started talking on August 28th and didn't shut up for 24 hours and 18 minutes!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, April 13, 2017**

### The Thing

Here are the lyrics to a hit tune Phil Harris sang back in 1950.

*While I was walking down the beach one bright and sunny  
day,  
I saw a great big wooden box a-floatin' in the bay.  
I pulled it in and opened it up and much to my surprise ...  
Ooh, I discovered a boom-ba-boom, right before my eyes!  
Oh, I discovered a boom-ba-boom, right before my eyes!*

*I picked it up and ran to town as happy as a king.  
I took it to a guy I knew who'd buy 'most any thing.  
But, this is what he hollered at me as I walked in his shop,  
"Oh, get outta here with that boom-ba-boom, before I call a  
cop!"  
Oh, get outta here with that boom-ba-boom before I call a  
cop!*

*I turned around and got right out, a-runnin' for my life.  
And then I took it home with me to give it to my wife.  
But, this is what she hollered at me as I walked in the door,  
"Oh, get outta here with that boom-ba-boom, and don't come  
back no more!"  
Oh, get outta here with that boom-ba-boom, and don't come  
back no more!*

*I wandered all around the town until I chanced to meet  
A hobo who was looking for a hand-out on the street.  
He said he'd take 'most any old thing ... he was a desperate  
man.  
But, when I showed him the boom-ba-boom, he turned around  
and ran!  
Oh, when I showed him the boom-ba-boom, he turned around*

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*and ran!*

*I wandered on for many years, a victim of my fate,  
Until one day I came upon St. Peter at the gate.  
And when I tried to take it inside, he told me where to go,  
"Get outta here with that boom-ba-boom and take it down  
below!"  
Oh, get outta here with that boom-ba-boom and take it down  
below!*

*The moral of this story is: If you're out on the beach ...  
And you should see a great big box and it's within your reach  
...  
Don't ever stop and open it up ... that's my advice to you ...  
'Cause you'll never get rid of the boom-ba-boom, no matter  
what you do!  
No, you'll never get rid of the boom-ba-boom, no matter what  
you do!*

(The boom ba boom is the beating of a bass drum.)

***The Thing*** was the "B" side of an **RCA Victor** record released in October of 1950. The "A" or promoted side was ***Goofus***, but ***The Thing*** took off and was on the charts for fourteen weeks, peaking at number one! The Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show ran from 1948 to 1954 on the NBC Radio Network. Harris released at least a dozen other songs over the years, including ***The Preacher and the Bear*** and ***That's What I Like About the South***. He also sang ***The Bare Necessities*** as Baloo the Bear in the 1967 Disney movie ***The Jungle Book***.

All you old-timers can listen to ***The Thing*** by Phil Harris again right here: <https://youtu.be/FWPx-fw0mI8>

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, April 17, 2017**

White Noise

**Dictionary.com** describes White Noise as follows:

Noun

1. Also called white sound. a steady, unvarying, unobtrusive sound, as an electronically produced drone or the sound of rain, used to mask or obliterate unwanted sounds.
2. ... random noise with a uniform frequency spectrum over a wide range of frequencies.

The **Urban Dictionary** describes it thus:

The words of herpetologists Donald Schultz and Devon Massyn, *"They bring the white noise when they come around. Whether it be from fans or the hiss of a deadly animal... Their adventures are a constant background noise and the message drowns out other sounds, meaningless or distracting commotion or chatter!"*

(Repeater Term) is a scientific term used to describe a spectrum of broad band noise generated in a receiver's detector and sampled to control the receiver's squelch. This term is often incorrectly used in repeater work to describe the sounds heard when the received transmission is noisy and hard to understand, usually attributed to a weak signal and the repeater receiver limiters are not engaged.

The noise picked up by radios or tvs when they are not focused on one channel. Kinda sounds like

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

(shshshshshshshshsh). Radios often pick up white noise.

**Wikipedia** lists White Noise like this:

White noise (slang), a meaningless or distracting commotion or chatter  
*White Noise* (novel), a 1985 novel by Don DeLillo  
White noise machine, privacy and sleep aid that makes use of white noise or similar masking signals  
White Noise, name of the supporters group of the New Zealand national football team.

More from **Wikipedia**:

Discovered in 1874 by Karl Ferdinand Braun and improved around 1904 by early radio researchers Henry H. C. Dunwoody, G. W. Pickard and others, this device was used as the detector in early crystal radios, from the early twentieth century through World War II, and gave this type of radio receiver its name.

[Because there were very few radio transmitters before the turn of the century, people with crystal radios heard lots of white noise as they tuned around looking for a signal. Some journalists say that white noise was first artificially generated using a simple crystal diode and electronic circuit sometime back in the 1970s.]

The sound of white noise, whether from a de-tuned FM receiver or a White Noise Machine, can be a soothing background sound, masking noises of the night and allowing the listener to sleep.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

In January of 2014 I wrote, "I was listening to KTAR in the car the other day and one of the talk show hosts said she didn't think many would be listening (or watching) the President's State-of-the-Union speech because '*most of what he says is just **white noise** to most people anymore.*'" At the time I laughed out loud. Being an engineer familiar with the noise on empty over-the-air FM and TV channels, it struck me as a funny use of the term. But then, it was coming from an FM broadcaster. Since that time I've heard the term slowly work its way into the political arena.

Lately, I've noticed (and I'll bet you have, too) that today's news coverage has moved toward the center. CNN has moved from the left, Fox News has moved from the right, and MSNBC has moved from the far left. Except for the biggest personalities, they're all sounding the same and they're all droning on day after day with the same ol' same over and over - blah blah blahh blah. Even on the local channels, the newsreaders and reporters are hard at it - blah blah blahh blahh.

***It's all white noise!***

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

### *Vanity Publishing*

So, you've written a book and you'd like to publish it with hopes of maybe making a coupla bucks off it after expenses. Hardback, softcover, paperback, digital, e-book - it doesn't much matter - you just want it published.

That's where "Vanity" publishers come in. They'll get your manuscript read, edited professionally and packaged for publication. And they 'll print a number hardcover and paperback copies for you to peddle. Some even create digital or e-books for sale online or over-the-counter. Some will set up show-and-tell book-signings around the country just to promote your book.

Vanity publishers have one thing in common: they want your money. Anywhere from about \$1,000 to as much as \$16,000 depending on the services provided. The first "installment" is usually around \$2,500. This amount can be paid to the publisher in one lump sum or in several monthly installments as getting the book to market proceeds. Royalties usually begin to be paid to the author after publishing costs are recouped.

Conventional publishers will take a writer's work, evaluate it and make an offer or advance if they see promise in the project. Most writers go through hundreds of submissions before finding a publisher willing to pay flat-out for the rights, an advance on projected sales, or royalties based on a certain percentage of sales. A professional author seldom uses Vanity Publishers without a significant stable of backers or an "angel".

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Vanity publishers are in the business of making money by using yours, not their own. They call them "Vanity" publishers because a majority of their clients are too vain to understand that they haven't got the education, talent, drive and expertise to be recognized as professionals. Vanity, a more or less common human trait, is defined as an adjective in the **Cambridge Dictionary** *"used to describe something that is done with the aim of getting praise, fame, or approval rather than for serious or good reasons."*

If you're really serious about publishing a manuscript, print it out on plain copy paper, get a couple of dozen copies made at a commercial printer, and start making submissions to conventional publishers through an agent of good repute. (Of course, you can submit directly, but an agent can open doors you never heard of !)

Some conventional publishing houses include [Simon & Schuster](#), [Random House](#) and [Chicago Review Press](#). Some vanity publishers include [Dorrance, Page](#) and [Xilbris](#). Visits to these six publishers' websites should clearly demonstrate the massive differences between vanity and conventional publishing.

Here's a sample of what I've sent to vanity publishers who want to spend my money for me:

Thank you Didre for your responses to my query.

I have corresponded with publishers over the years and determined that, although many had, like you, been doing business successfully for some time, I had no interest in "Vanity" publishing. Either my work has merit in which you are willing to invest or it doesn't. In other words, I'm not a Vanity Publishing investor - your owners/stockholders are. My investment has



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

been in the time and effort it takes to create a manuscript - yours is to bring that investment to fruition. Or not.

If you would like to negotiate an arrangement that puts my work on the bookshelves of America as the result of your investment in me and my product, rather than my investment in your own cashflow, please make an offer.

Thanks!

So, ya wanna be an author? Just be prepared to fail over and over again until finally somebody takes your submission and makes you an offer. Actually, there are three other choices: pay a Vanity publisher, write letters to the editor, or publish on social media. And good luck to ya!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, April 24, 2017**

**\$8.3 Million**

\$8.3 Million - that's what the Dems spent on the Georgia 6th Congressional District special election last week in a failed effort to push **Jon Ossoff** to at least a 50% majority. Ossoff garnered a plurality of 48.1% in the election called to replace Incumbent **Tom Price**. Price had resigned from his Congressional seat following his appointment and confirmation as United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Ossoff will face Republican **Karen Handel** in a June 20th runoff election. Handel prevailed against ten other Republicans by pulling 19.8% of the ballots cast. There were also four other Democrat candidates. The combined vote in the Georgia special election was 51% Republican and 49% Democrat. Oddsmakers are giving Ossoff little chance to overcome the GOP winner.

Alright, why would Ossoff NOT win a runoff election? Good grief, Charlie Brown He allowed only 9/10ths of one percentage point to go to his Democratic contenders! That's a MASSIVE win in any book! On the other hand, Handel was only able to garner something around 20% of all the Republican ballots cast. Well, if you throw all the Dem voters in one pot and all the GOP in another, you'll find there are more Republicans than Democrats inclined to vote in District Six.

Let's do the math. For the sake of discussion, lets say the total number of ballots cast was 1000.

51% of 1000=**510**. 19.8% of 1000=**198** so 510-198=**312**  
Republicans voted for someone else.

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49% of 1000=**490**. 48.1% of 1000=**481** so 490-481=**9**  
Democrats voted for someone else.

Even if ALL the Democrats vote for Ossoff he can only get 481+9 (490) or 49%. If ALL the Republicans vote for Handel they will take 198+312 (510) or 51%.

In this scenario (1000 ballots), for Ossoff to win, ALL the Democrats must vote and at least 21 Republicans have to stay home!

Republicans will turn out the vote - by hook or by crook. Democrats, at this point, are hard to motivate - so with a strong 51% GOP turnout, Dems will be hard-pressed to turn even 46% of the votes. So, there you have it. Handel wins hands-down. But only after total spending on both sides tops some \$30 million.

So, you ask, why did Ossoff fail to win the election outright? Especially with a war chest valued at more than eight-million dollars? There are a number of reasons.

**First**, Democrats still don't get it!

After losing the Presidency in the Electoral College, you'd think party leaders would have at least made an attempt to understand what happened and why! If I recall correctly, Clinton won the national plurality by some three million votes but failed to win the majority of the Electoral College ballots. Donald Trump won by a difference of about 18%, a walk-away win of 306 to 232. Had the Clinton camp done the work on the ground to win the rust belt and the swing states, they would have won the Electoral College by a wide margin.

It was the same deal in the Georgia District Six Special Election. They threw over eight million dollars into

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advertising on television stations that simply didn't reach the 710,000 residents in District Six! Most of Atlanta's commercial TV stations transmit from northeast of the city and beam their signals to the southwest, away from the suburban area. Heck, it's a thirty minute drive from Sandy Springs, just inside the District Six boundary, to downtown Atlanta! The Democrats failed to do their homework. Again. It's a bad habit.

**Second**, Rome burned while Nero fiddled.

It takes more than a village to raise a successful campaign. It takes more than a boatfull of cash to win. More than anything, it takes organization and lots of warm bodies willing to wear out shoe leather and dialing fingers. In suburban areas it takes door-hangers and pamphlets and, most especially, personal contact with folks at the grocery in town and at that bar and grill right down the road a-piece. Relying on television and newspaper in rural and suburban areas is a grave mistake.

Mass media doesn't excite country folks - they have more important things to do. Campaign volunteers need to understand how important it is to ferret out the locals and chew the fat! Campaign workers need to know the importance of small talk, especially in the South. Rural people love to hear good stories from outa town! Get their ears and you'll get their votes! Especially Democrats. Obviously, the Dems dropped the ball in Georgia last Tuesday.

**Finally**, the national party dropped the ball - again.

With a new **Democrat National Committee** chair in the form of **Tom Perez** and a promise to vigorously focus future campaigns on the "grass roots", it appears that the party's new

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leaders simply don't understand the people who make up the majority of Middle America whether they live in suburbia or the sticks. (It's ok to include suburban Georgia - and most of the South - in that category, isn't it?) Independent **Bernie Sanders** touring the country with foul-mouthed Democrat Chief Tom Perez to gain grass roots? What?!!!

An April 11 GOP win in Kansas' 4th Congressional District - where Republican **Ron Estes**' 53 to 46 percent victory over Democrat **James Thompson** - had Dems wringing their hands in despair while touting the "narrow loss" as a victory! As usual, their ground game had great uniforms ... but no quarterback, no offense and an invisible defense. Democrats have a hard time recognizing the difference between the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. Calling a Navy Blue suit black doesn't make it black. By the same token, calling a pink tie white means you're color-blind! Fabricated truths are still fabrications. Only in America.

There is a thing about elite Democrats that has turned the folks in Middle America against them. You can't recruit thousands of snot-nosed kids out of urban areas of the country, send them to suburbia and the sticks, and expect them to communicate effectively. They have to be recruited from local or regional stock. Of course, urban recruiting was the thing during Martin Luther King's marches and sit-ins. It worked back in the day. But remember, it wasn't effective until after the media reported on Commissioner of Public Safety Eugene "Bull" Connor's brutality and violence directed at more than a thousand Birmingham children who volunteered to participate.

If the new Democrat strategy includes throwing money at elections in rural and suburban areas without doing the hard work that includes researching the radio, tv and newspaper habits of the locals, as well as both literally and figuratively

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embracing the folks that fill out the ballots, there is little doubt that this crazy business of "almost won" will continue for many years to come.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, April 27, 2017**

*Enforce Federal Law?*

The Feds are insisting that cities enforce federal laws relative to immigration. So-called Sanctuary Cities are having hissy-fits over the requirement to comply or forgo federal grant support. Somehow, the cities' objections strike me as reasonable, all things considered. But, being the conservative you know me to be by now, let me elaborate.

Let us jump on the **Way-back Machine** and travel back in time to Arizona and the year 2010. Now, let's explore a few paragraphs about **SB 1070** from **Wikipedia**:

The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act (introduced as Arizona Senate Bill 1070 and thus often referred to simply as Arizona SB 1070) is a 2010 legislative Act in the U.S. state of Arizona that at the time of passage in 2010 was the broadest and strictest anti-illegal immigration measure in a long time. It [...] received national and international attention and has spurred considerable controversy.

U.S. federal law requires all aliens over the age of 14 who remain in the United States for longer than 30 days to register with the U.S. government, and to have registration documents in their possession at all times; violation of this requirement is a federal misdemeanor crime. The Arizona act additionally made it a state misdemeanor crime for an alien to be in Arizona without carrying the required documents, required that state law enforcement officers attempt to determine an individual's immigration status during a "lawful stop, detention or arrest", when there is reasonable

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suspicion that the individual is an illegal immigrant. The law barred state or local officials or agencies from restricting enforcement of federal immigration laws, and imposed penalties on those sheltering, hiring and transporting unregistered aliens. The paragraph on intent in the legislation says it embodies an "attrition through enforcement" doctrine.

Critics of the legislation [claimed] it encourages racial profiling, while supporters [said] the law prohibits the use of race as the sole basis for investigating immigration status. The law was modified by Arizona House Bill 2162 within a week of its signing with the goal of addressing some of these concerns. There [were] protests in opposition to the law in over 70 U.S. cities, including boycotts and calls for boycotts of Arizona. Polling [...] found the law to have majority support in Arizona and nationwide. Passage of the measure [...] prompted other states to consider adopting similar legislation.

The Act was signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer on April 23, 2010. It was scheduled to go into effect on July 29, 2010, ninety days after the end of the legislative session. Legal challenges over its constitutionality and compliance with civil rights law were filed, including one by the United States Department of Justice, that also asked for an injunction against enforcement of the law. The day before the law was to take effect, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction that blocked the law's most controversial provisions.

In June 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the case *Arizona v. United States*, upholding the provision requiring immigration status checks during law



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enforcement stops but striking down three other provisions as violations of the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution.

The three provisions that were struck down required legal immigrants to carry registration documents at all times; allowed state police to arrest any individual for suspicion of being an illegal immigrant; and made it a crime for an illegal immigrant to search for a job (or to hold one) in the state.

Now, let's review what Sanctuary Cities are doing compared to what has been allowed and disallowed (in Arizona) by the High Court.

**First:** Even though Federal Immigration policy requires immigrants to carry ID (¿tu papeles?) such as a Green Card as proof of lawful residency, the Supreme Court said that Arizona could not enforce the same requirement. The US Guide for New Immigrants on page 8 advises "*Carry proof of your permanent resident status at all times.*" At odds with that statement are findings that legal immigrants are considered "citizens" and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of natural born and naturalized citizens - except to vote. There is no law requiring US citizens to carry ID. All persons, however, are required to identify themselves if requested by lawful authority - in other words, if a cop stops you and asks for ID, you're required to tell him your name and where you're from. Same goes for immigrants. This holds true in all cities not just Sanctuary Cities.

**Second:** Illegal immigrants, according to the Supreme Court, are free to look for jobs and hold on to them if they can. Federal (and state) laws, however, make it a crime for businesses to employ *unauthorized aliens*. Back in the days that got former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio in

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trouble, MCSO would do "sweeps" of neighborhoods and businesses, looking for illegals, detaining those they found and citing businesses involved for employing them. The Federal Court in Phoenix found that the "sweeps" violated the US Constitution because the practice involved "profiling" Mexican-Americans citizens. ie: "Sweeps" are also off limits in Sanctuary Cities.

**Third:** Apparently there is a difference between arresting and detaining an illegal immigrant. The High Court struck down the provision that allowed a law officer to arrest an immigrant if there was "*reasonable suspicion*" that the person was in the state illegally. The thing is ... unless there is a 278(g) agreement in place with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) which allows non-federal law officers to arrest immigrants, all they can do is ask ICE to issue a "*Detainer*" to keep a suspect incarcerated for an additional 48 hours after initially being taken into custody, adjudicated and processed for release. Most Cities won't arrest or detain an individual for being an illegal. They can (and do) arrest for crimes and misdemeanors, but not for being illegal.

**Finally:** HB 1070 usurped the ICE 278(g) Delegation of Immigration Authority by making it legal for Arizona agencies to enforce federal immigration laws. In addition, the Arizona Statute forbade Cities and Towns from adopting policies that restricted enforcement of immigration laws - in other words, from creating parts of SB 1070 to be unconstitutional and disallowed them. That sounds very much like Sanctuary Cities will be found lawful by the High Court if a challenge ever gets that high.

Ergo - using HB 1070 and the results of its trip through the US Supreme Court ...

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It appears that Sanctuary Cities have every right to refuse to enforce US Immigration laws simply because the Court voided the portions of the Arizona Statute that *required* enforcement and *forbade restriction* of enforcement. The Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that the federal government cannot “commandeer” state and local officials by compelling them to enforce federal law, *in violation of the Tenth Amendment*.

Disallowing federal funding for Sanctuary Cities could well be considered unconstitutional. If Sanctuary Cities are within their rights to *not enforce federal laws*, the Feds cannot withhold grant funding because of alleged non-compliance with 8 U.S.C. 1373. Most, if not all, grants go to very few lengths to comply that section of the US Code. It simply doesn't apply - unless the funds have been passed by Congress, and may only apply to new grants, not ones that have already been appropriated. That may be beside the point. Tuesday, U.S. District Judge **William Orrick** blocked a Trump administration order to withhold funding from communities that limit cooperation with U.S. immigration authorities. Orrick concurred with San Francisco and Santa Clara County and issued a temporary injunction barring enforcement of the executive order.

So, are Sanctuary Cities legal? Yep. Do they have to enforce federal immigration laws? Nope. Can the Feds withhold grant funding because of it? Nope.

Next thing ya know, they'll be wanting to secede! Just sayin'.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, May 1, 2017**

Bring it!

So, the snowflakes out there are ready to shut down your annual parade. They're backed up by a surly bunch of black-clad, masked **Antifa** rioters. What do you do?

Do you cave in like parade organizers did when threatened with violence from some 200 rioters if the Republican Party was allowed to march with other participants in their 86th annual Rose parade? Last week the mainstream media reported that Portland's finest - the cops charged with keeping order - declared they couldn't guarantee anybody's safety.

**Jim Ryan** of the **Oregonian** reported Wednesday

"The decision to cancel Saturday's 82nd **Avenue of Roses Parade** over an anonymous threat has prompted dismay from the mayor, spawned protests and prompted the **Portland Rose Festival** to ensure its events will go on as planned."

"You have seen how much power we have downtown and that the police cannot stop us from shutting down roads so please consider your decision wisely," the email says.

***To Serve and to Protect.*** That's the motto since 1955 of the Los Angeles Police Department. Law enforcement agencies across the country picked it up as a slogan because it helps soothe the hurts and ease the trauma most police officers incur almost daily. It's a reminder that makes lawmen and women proud to be in their line of work. ***To Serve and to Protect*** helps keep the ***Thin Blue Line*** strong, willing and able to keep law and order in their communities.

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Why, then, would the cops in Portland run away from a threat to the universal good feelings and celebration generated by a parade that for going on 86 years has been the opening volley for the annual Portland Rose Festival? What happened to the reciprocity between Portland area law enforcement agencies? Where are the mutual aid agreements that allow governmental agencies to assist each other during threats to the public safety? Where is the Governor of Oregon - the one who has the power to call on the National Guard to back up local law enforcement? Well, how 'bout let's indignantly compare the mainstream news reports with the real facts on the ground?

**Ryan** continues ...

**"Rich Jarvis**, spokesman for the **Rose Festival Foundation**, which includes the [Avenue of Roses] parade in its calendar, initially said organizers canceled after police told them they couldn't offer any additional security.

"He said Wednesday, however, that a police spokesman told him organizers canceled the event before police had the chance to respond to the threat of violence.

"Sgt. **Pete Simpson**, spokesman, said police knew about the threats and were ready to 'provide a police response appropriate to the needs of the event, which has traditionally been a family-friendly affair.'

"The Police Bureau did not tell organizers that the Bureau would be unable to provide additional police resources but that any decisions to provide additional resources would be left to East Precinct command,' Simpson said in an email. 'My understanding is that

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the decision by organizers to cancel was made prior to any further discussions with East Precinct."

The Portland Rose Festival is an annual celebration that officially begins Saturday May 6th, lasts for five weeks and comes to a close on June 11th with Drag races, Dragon Boat races, rifle matches, concerts, art shows and the Cityfair. City leaders started the festival during the first decade of the 20th Century to put Portland on the map and brand it "**the summer capital of the world.**" The last Saturday in April the Avenue of Roses Parade is included in the line-up as a preview of celebrations over the weeks to come.

There are three other parades scheduled during the later part of the festival: the **Starlight Parade** at 8:30pm Saturday June 3rd, the **Junior Parade** at 1:00pm Wednesday June 7th, and the **Grand Floral Parade**, which commences at 10:00am Saturday June 10th.

Will the **Antifa** (and perhaps **Occupy** and **Anonymous**) try to shut those parades down, also? They may try, but they'll run smack into a stone wall! All of the High Schools in the Portland area participate along with their annual parade queens and marching bands. The Portland parades make the Rose Bowl and the Macy's parades look like childs-play in comparison! Even Mardi Gras doesn't out-celebrate the Portland Rose Festival. Portland's cops can take care of business. (Remember, the Portland cops can invoke the infamous "Swarm.") And, I'll bet area High School Football teams would be willing to dress out to participate in protecting their parade entries! Yeah! C'mon Antifa! Bring it!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

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**Thursday, May 4, 2017**

Killing Fox News

It began in the late Summer of 2015. Little by little the whispers came creeping, Whispers about troubles at Fox News Channel. Gradually they turned to charges of criminality. They were leveled against CEO **Roger Ailes**, **Bill O'Rielly** and, of all people, **Sean Hannity**. But there may be something more sinister than charges and lawsuits under foot. They say it all began with ... **Megyn Kelly**. **Wikipedia** tells her tale:

From 2013 to 2017, Kelly hosted the eponymous ***The Kelly File***. She previously hosted ***America Live***, and prior to that, co-hosted ***America's Newsroom*** with **Bill Hemmer**. From 2007 to 2012, the two reporters hosted Fox News Channel's New Year's Eve specials, "**All American New Year**". She was included in the 2014 **TIME** [Magazine] list of the 100 most influential people.

In the Republican Party presidential debate on August 6, 2015, Kelly asked whether a man of [**Donald**]**Trump**'s temperament ought to be elected president. Kelly's moderating generated a range of media and political reactions and her professionalism was criticized by presidential candidate Trump. [**InFoRum**] During the debate, Kelly had asked Trump about comments referring to women as "fat pigs" and slobs. Trump told her: "And honestly Megyn, if you don't like it, I'm sorry," Trump said. "I've been very nice to you, although I could probably maybe not be, based on the way you have treated me. But I wouldn't do that."

[**Wikipedia**] Kelly responded to Trump's criticism by saying she would not "apologize for doing good journalism".

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[**InFoRum**] The Trump campaign issued a statement saying, "Mr. Trump made Megyn Kelly look really bad - she was a mess with her anger and totally caught off guard. [On **CNN**] Mr. Trump said 'blood was coming out of her eyes and whatever' meaning nose, but wanted to move on to more important topics. Only a deviant would think anything else."

Trump declined to attend the Iowa January 28 debate that she moderated. After the debate and off-camera, Kelly referred to Trump as "**Voldemort**".

In July 2016, amid allegations of sexual harassment on the part of Fox News CEO Roger Ailes, Kelly was reported to have confirmed that she herself was also subjected to his harassment. Two days after the report, Ailes resigned from Fox News and his lawyer, **Susan Estrich**, publicly denied the charges.

[Kelly] departed Fox News on January 6, 2017, after the last episode of ***The Kelly File*** was aired. In January, **People** [Magazine] quoted an unspecified source that Kelly remains under a non-compete clause with Fox until July ... and that she may start working at **NBC** only when it expires or is canceled. It was reported that Kelly's new daytime program would be a replacement for the third hour of NBC's morning show ***Today, Today's Take***.

### **CNN media:**

It began on July 6, 2016, when **Gretchen Carlson** dropped a bombshell that CEO Roger Ailes had harassed her. The suit claims that she was terminated for "refusing Ailes' sexual advances."

July 19, 2016, **New York** Magazine reports that anchor Megyn Kelly, one of the network's biggest stars, told 21st



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Century Fox investigators that Ailes made unwanted sexual advances towards her a decade earlier. Other accusations followed and Ailes was gone July 21st. [On the same day] **Rupert Murdoch**, the head of 21st Century Fox, becomes the channel's chairman and acting CEO.

July 29th, **Laurie Luhn**, a former Fox News booker, tells investigators of [a] Fox internal probe that she had been harassed by Ailes for more than 20 years and that Fox News knew about it.

Following Ailes' resignation, 21st Century Fox reaches a settlement of more than \$1 million with **Laurie Dhue**, an anchor from 2000 to 2008, regarding harassment claims against O'Reilly and Ailes, according to the **New York Times**.

August 22nd, **Andrea Tantaros**, a former Fox News host, files a lawsuit alleging that she was sexually harassed by both Ailes and O'Reilly.

In September, 21st Century Fox pays out a \$1.6 million settlement to **Juliet Huddy**, who had made appearances on "The O'Reilly Factor," according to **The New York Times**. And Gretchen Carlson and 21st Century Fox reach a settlement worth \$20 million.

November 15th, Kelly alleges in her memoir that Ailes made unwanted sexual advances towards her.

March 9th, 2017, Fox agrees to pay \$2.5 million to **Tamara Holder**, a former on-air contributor, following her allegations that **Francisco Cortes**, an executive at Fox News Latino who was terminated, forced himself on her in 2015.

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The **New York Times** reports that five women (**Rachel Witlieb Bernstein, Andra Mackris, Rebecca Gomez Diamond**, Dhue, and Huddy) have received settlements from O'Reilly, Fox News, or 21st Century Fox since 2002. Of the five, the Times reveals three payouts totaling \$13 million. [Hardly an April Fools joke!]

April 3rd, **Julie Roginsky** files a harassment lawsuit against Ailes. Roginsky states that she was led to believe that she would receive a permanent position on the network's panel show, "**The Five**," but that it was rescinded once she turned back Ailes.

April 4th, **Wendy Walsh**, a psychologist and radio TV personality, accuses O'Reilly of harassment. She tells **CNN** that's she not in it for the money and not suing him. [The same day,] in wake of the scandal, O'Reilly's highly rated news show bleeds sponsors. Dozens of companies including **Mercedes-Benz, BMW of North America, Lexus, Bayer, Allstate** and **Hyundai** pull ads from Fox's "The O'Reilly Factor."

On April 11th, O'Reilly announces he is taking a two-week vacation. His spokesperson says the trip had been planned since October, and Fox News says he will return to "The O'Reilly Factor" on April 24.

[On April 19th, however,] 21st Century Fox gives O'Reilly the boot. *"After a thorough and careful review of the allegations, the Company and Bill O'Reilly have agreed that Bill O'Reilly will not be returning to the Fox News Channel,"* the company says.

April 25th, **Kelly Wright**, a black reporter and anchor who has been with Fox News since 2003 ... claims that he "has been effectively sidelined and asked to perform the role of a

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'Jim Crow' -- the racist caricature of a Black entertainer." Wright is one of 13 plaintiffs, all people of color who are either current or former Fox News employees, to sue the network in the last month charging racial discrimination. The litigation began last month, when two black women filed a lawsuit saying they faced "top-down racial harassment" from **Judith Slater**, Fox's now-former comptroller. The two plaintiffs, **Tichaona Brown** and **Tabrese Wright**, accused Slater of making a number of racially insensitive remarks.

### New York Times:

**Liam Stack** | April 23, 2017 Fox News faced new sexual harassment allegations on Sunday as **Alisyn Camerota**, a former anchor, accused the former Fox News chief Roger E. Ailes of saying "grossly inappropriate" things to her and once inviting her to a hotel room when she asked for new opportunities at work.

Mr. Ailes was ousted in July from the network he built into a conservative media powerhouse after multiple employees, including the former anchor Gretchen Carlson, accused him of sexual harassment. Ms. Camerota added her voice to that chorus on Sunday during an interview on the CNN show "**Reliable Sources**."

"Yes, Roger Ailes did sexually harass me," she said.

### TheWeek:

**Catharine Garcia** | April 24, 2017 In an interview with [KFAQ Tulsa,] Oklahoma radio host **Pat Campbell**, **Debbie Schlusser** said that before going on [Sean]Hannity's show, he invited her to a book signing in Detroit. As she prepared to leave the event, Hannity asked her, "'Why don't you come back with me to my hotel?'" she said. "And I said no, I have to get ready for the show." Before they went on the air,

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Hannity allegedly said the pair should "double-team" another guest, a phrase Schluskel said she thought was "weird."

[In the original lead to this story, Hannity was alleged to have sexually harassed Schluskel - it was subsequently corrected.] In an interview with **Law Newz** on Monday, Schluskel said that while everything she said about her interaction with Hannity in the early 2000s is true, she does not believe that what happened was sexual harassment by any legal definition. "I would never accuse him of that," Schluskel said, adding, "I never thought I was sexually harassed by Sean Hannity. I thought he was weird and creepy, not someone I liked."

[**Michelle Malkin** commented in a later interview with Campbell, "I can tell you, after nearly 20 years of knowing Sean Hannity, that they don't have anything ... he's as much a great guy in private as he is in public."]

So, we get to the crux of the story. Hannity went on the air on both his radio and television shows to set the record straight following the "allegations" trumped up by the Oklahoma radio station. **RealClearPolitics** printed his address on April 26th.

*I have to start by addressing a well-orchestrated effort by the intolerant left in this country that is designed to silence every conservative voice - and by any means necessary.*

*Now, I'm speaking out tonight so that you, our audience, will understand what is really happening and what is at stake when it comes to freedom of speech in this country. Now, these tactics are right out of Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals" playbook.*

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*Now, I've worked for radio for 30 years. I've been right here at the Fox News Channel for 21-and-a-half years. I'm very proud of that and during this time, there've always been efforts and attempts to smear and slander and besmirch me and other conservatives. But it has never been as intense and completely insane as it is right now.*

*[...]*

*Now, it has only gotten worse in the age of President Trump. Now, it's no secret I have been a supporter of the president and of course his policies. And quite simply, these liberal fascists - they can't stand conservative voices.*

*[...]*

*Now, I want you to know, my audience, the importance of what is happening here. This is not about Sean Hannity. This is not about one person. There is now a coordinated attempt to silence the voice of every outspoken conservative in this country.*

*If we don't stop it right now, there won't be any conservative voices on radio or television left. Now, I'm not the only one that these liberal fascists routinely targeted. Like me, conservatives are monitored on radio and TV, every word they say - in contrary to the alt radical left stated position ... they're so open-minded (liberals.)*

*Not true. Liberal fascism is alive and well in America today. Their goal is simple: They want to shut up and shut down and silence all conservative voices by any means necessary.*

*Here is the difference: Unlike the left, I don't have any problem with what the other side says. If you want to listen to liberals on radio or TV, read their articles, follow them on social media, go for it.*

*Now, I'll call them out for the bias. I will explain why they were wrong. I will debate them. But I will never, ever say they*

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*should be silenced. And I won't support boycotts to attack their advertisers, a roundabout way of silencing them. So let me be clear tonight, everyone who is publicly supporting President Trump is a target. This is very political.*

*We have seen repeatedly that the left knows no limits in these efforts.*

*They have gone after and attacked the first lady. They have attacked members of the president's family, every White House advisor. They've even attacked his daughter and his 10-year-old son.*

*Now, ultimately their goal is to cause as much collateral damage as they can to anybody that supports the president. They have tried to undermine the outcome of this election since November 9.*

*Please note, this is not about me. This is about the left concocting boycotts - all in an attempt to silence prominent conservative voices. If we don't take a stand now, if we allow this to happen now, I am telling you, America as we know it - freedom of speech as we know it - is over. Let's stop the boycotts and silencing of opposition voices.*

*Let all of Americans make their own decisions.*

Monday, Fox accepted co-president **Bill Shine's** resignation. **Jack Abernethy** was named as Shine's replacement. **Suzanne Scott** was named President of Programming, while **Jay Wallace** became President of News. Shine, who has been with Fox since its inception more than twenty years ago, stays on the payroll while he oversees the transition. Hannity said it would be the "total end" of Fox News if the shake-up actually happened. There have been predictions that Hannity himself, being the last remaining prime-time star at FNC, will not last

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

long. However, **IJ Review** quoted a source stating that Hannity was not negotiating for an exit at all.

Meanwhile, the rumor mill keeps on churnin': Word on the street is that a number of well-known fat-cats are working to put together a new conservative network because Fox has "moved too far left." A source reportedly told **Mediaite** that "two prominent high-powered television executives, some underperforming conservative networks and people who have an interest and ability to fund a new network" met last Friday to discuss creating a rival to Fox News.

Sounds to me like O'Reilly has the ready-made title for another book. ***Killing Fox News***

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, May 8, 2017**

Mainstream Bias or Not

Please note that most of this article (in italics) is from the May/June edition of **POLITICO: *The Media Bubble Is Worse Than You Think***, created by Senior media writer **Jack Shafer** and data reporter **Tucker Doherty**. Credit is given here rather than throughout today's column because it's boring and there's too much of it to give scattered out. In short, they did good! Kudos! Source: <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/04/25/media-bubble-real-journalism-jobs-east-coast-215048>

Now, I have preached for a long time that the mainstream media has a bias toward conservatism. I've labeled the news media as mostly liberal. There's plenty of empirical as well as hard evidence out there to prove those claims. The news reporting by **CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, CBS, NBC, ABC, Washington Post, New York and Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, USA Today** and even the venerable **Wall Street Journal** brims with left coast and northeast liberal bias. But, I could never pin down exactly why this phenomena was true. After reading Shafer and Doherty, I know it's true without a doubt. The situation is not as sinister as you might think, however.

The mainstream media just doesn't get it. ***How did big media miss the Donald Trump swell?** News organizations old and new, large and small, print and online, broadcast and cable assigned phalanxes of reporters armed with the most sophisticated polling data and analysis to cover the presidential campaign. The overwhelming assumption was that the race was **Hillary Clinton's** for the taking, and the real question wasn't how sweeping her November victory would be, but how far out to sea her wave would send*



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

*political parvenu Trump. Today, it's Trump who occupies the White House and Clinton who's drifting out to sea - an outcome that arrived not just as an embarrassment for the press but as an indictment. In some profound way, the election made clear, the national media just doesn't get the nation it purportedly covers.*

*What happened? To some conservatives, Trump's surprise win on November 8 simply bore out what they had suspected, that the Democrat-infested press was knowingly in the tank for Clinton all along. The media, in this view, was guilty not just of confirmation bias but of complicity. But the knowing-bias charge never added up: No news organization ignored the Clinton emails story, and everybody feasted on the damaging **John Podesta** email cache that **WikiLeaks** served up buffet-style.*

*The answer to the press' myopia lies elsewhere, and nobody has produced a better argument for how the national media missed the Trump story than **FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver**, who pointed out that the ideological clustering in top newsrooms led to groupthink. "As of 2013, only 7 percent of [journalists] identified as Republicans," Silver wrote in March, chiding the press for its political homogeneity. Just after the election, presidential strategist **Steve Bannon** savaged the press on the same point but with a heartier vocabulary. "The media bubble is the ultimate symbol of what's wrong with this country," Bannon said. "It's just a circle of people talking to themselves who have no f-ing idea what's going on."*

*But journalistic groupthink is a symptom, not a cause. And when it comes to the cause, there's another, blunter way to think about the question than screaming "bias" and "conspiracy," or counting D's and R's. That's to ask a simple question about the map. Where do journalists work...?*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

*This is where Doherty comes into play. Tucker Doherty excavated labor statistics and cross-referenced them against voting patterns and Census data to figure out just what the American media landscape looks like ... The national media really does work in a bubble ... And the bubble is growing more extreme.*

*Concentrated heavily along the coasts, the bubble is both geographic and political. If you're a working journalist, odds aren't just that you work in a pro-Clinton county—odds are that you reside in one of the nation's most pro-Clinton counties. And you've got company: If you're a typical reader of Politico, chances are you're a citizen of bubbleville, too. [There are many] critics of journalism who want to sneer ... at reporters who live in Brooklyn or California and don't get the "real America" of southern Ohio or rural Kansas. But these numbers suggest it's no exaggeration: Not only is the bubble real, but it's more extreme than you might realize. Parts of the media have always had their own bubbles. The national magazine industry has been concentrated in New York for generations, and the copy produced reflects an Eastern sensibility. Radio and TV networks based in New York and Los Angeles likewise have shared that dominant sensibility. But they were more than balanced out by the number of newspaper jobs in big cities, midsized cities and smaller towns throughout the country, spreading journalists everywhere.*

*No longer. The newspaper industry has jettisoned hundreds of thousands of jobs, due to falling advertising revenues. Dailies have shrunk sections, pages and features; some have retreated from daily publication; hundreds have closed. Daily and weekly newspaper publishers employed about 455,000 reporters, clerks, salespeople, designers and the like in 1990, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. By January 2017, that workforce had more than halved to 173,900. Since*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

*January 2008, internet publishing has grown from 77,900 jobs to 206,700 in January 2017.*

*As newspapers have dwindled, internet publishers have added employees at a bracing clip. According to BLS data, a startling boom in "internet publishing and broadcasting" jobs has taken place. Guess where those jobs are today ... 73 percent of all internet publishing jobs are concentrated in either the Boston-New York-Washington-Richmond corridor or the West Coast crescent that runs from Seattle to San Diego and on to Phoenix. Almost all the real growth of internet publishing is happening outside the heartland, in just a few urban counties, all places that voted for Clinton. So when your conservative friends use "media" as a synonym for "coastal" and "liberal," they're not far off the mark.*

Those moves to the coasts are motivated by the financial interests of the labor pool. It's simple logic that when your job goes away, you move to where the most lucrative jobs can be found. *You don't need to be a Republican campaign strategist to grasp just how far the "media bubble" has drifted from the average American experience. Newspaper jobs are far more evenly scattered across the country, including the deep red parts. But as those vanish, it's internet jobs that are driving whatever growth there is in media - and those fall almost entirely in places that are dense, blue and right in the bubble.*

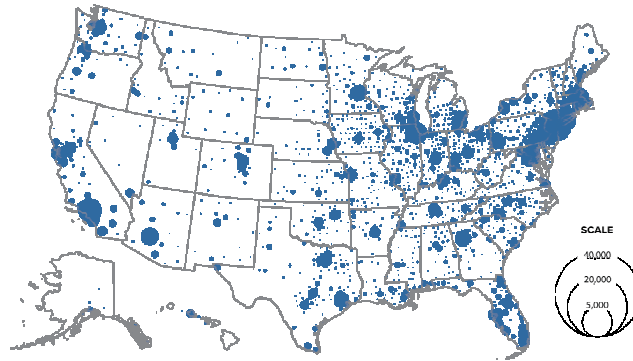
Check out the maps on the next page that were created by Doherty:

*[The reporters found on the Clinton coasts] ... an admirable lot, can parachute into Appalachia or the rural Midwest on a monthly basis and still not shake their provincial sensibilities: Reporters tote their bubbles with them.*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

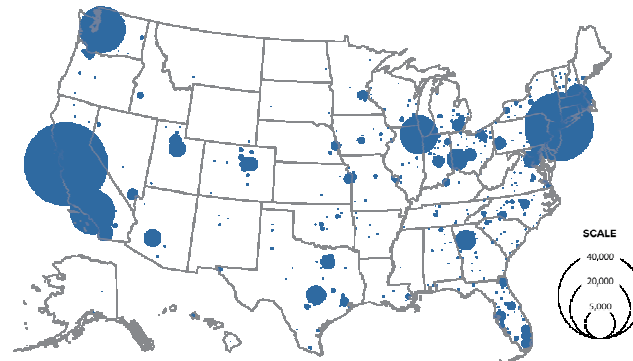
### Newspaper Publishing Industry Jobs, 2016

Newspaper jobs well distributed geographically, but the industry has been shedding jobs since 2008.



### Internet Publishing & Broadcasting Industry Jobs, 2016

The booming internet publishing industry is very concentrated in a handful of major metropolitan counties.



So, it's true. There really is a social and political bias built into the mainstream media. It's not sinister motives that have moved the media to the left, but rather it's the places in which most journalists have chosen to live and work. The fact that you're a product of your environment appears to be true all over our great country. While the mainstream media was falling all over itself for Hillary, Trump knew in his gut where the votes were - right there in Middle America.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, May 11, 2017**

### Personal Tax Increase?

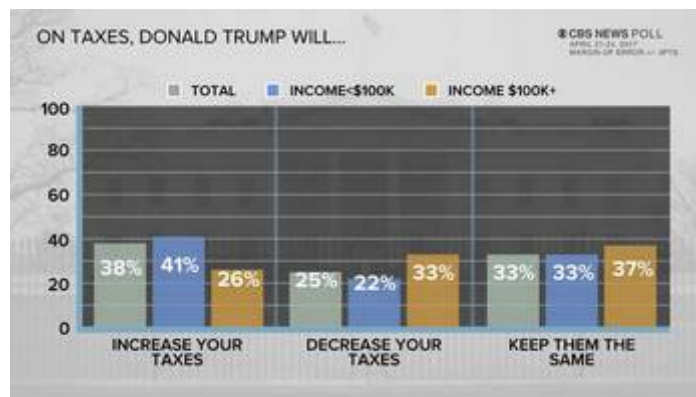
Coupla weeks ago **CBS News** did a poll that asked what people thought about President Trump's proposed tax package.

April 26, 2017 | *Jennifer De Pinto, Fred Backus, Kabir Khanna and Anthony Salvanto*

More Americans think Donald Trump will *increase* their taxes rather than *decrease* them - though Democrats are most likely to say this.

Americans are skeptical of President Trump so far on wholesale reform of the federal tax code. Though Mr. Trump offered large tax cuts for both businesses and the middle class as a candidate, more Americans (38 percent) think Donald Trump will *increase* their taxes rather than *decrease* them (25 percent), particularly those earning under \$100,000 a year.

Thirty-three percent do not think their taxes will change much either way.



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Fifty-nine percent of Americans think Democrats should be doing more to work with Donald Trump, rather than oppose him, though Democrats' rank and file disagree; sixty-four percent of them would prefer their party oppose him.

I've been remembering the days when I had to spend hours getting my tax information together so I could plug the answers into my Form 1040 and all of those other attachments. Retirement has made it so the standard deductions and exemptions are all I need to file a straight 1040 with a couple of attachments. I only pay self-employment taxes now. Trump's new package won't have any effect on me and Claudette.

The basic Trump tax package for individuals and families eliminates all their current deductions except home mortgages and charitable gifts. This is in trade for doubling the standard deduction to \$12,700 for singles and \$25,400 for married couples filing jointly. Middle-income workers currently itemizing deductions in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range would benefit a lot from the Trump deal. With the top tier now is 39.6%, everybody would benefit from the proposed lower tax rates in three tiers - 10%, 25% and 35%.

The CBS poll shows that some people might have a hard time not being able to write off a share of medical/dental expenses, real estate taxes, state and local income taxes and auto registration. Whether that piece of the working population pie is the same 38% as those who fear increased taxes remains to be seen.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, May 15, 2017**

### Expert Trolling

**Trolling** for fish is what you do while pulling a hook and line through a body of water. A **troll** is a mythical creature that inhabits otherwise un-inhabitable places such as under bridges, behind boulders, beneath dumpsters, in dank basement corners, and other such undesirable areas. An **internet troll** is a person who seeks to foment hate and discontent on social media by starting arguments or upsetting people, with extraneous, inflammatory or off-topic posts.

What, you ask, is **expert trolling**?

One who would troll for tuna, swordfish or sharks off the gunwale or stern of a fishing boat for a living would be called a professional or **expert troller**. Keep in mind that trollers hook their catches off fishing boats, not trawlers. (Trawlers are boats that use nets or drags or seines to catch fish. Monterey, California's famous *purse-seiners* cast their nets into the water and then use a rowboat to transport one end of the floating net to the other, forming a "purse" which is then closed and the trapped are fish hauled aboard.) It's against the law in many places to troll in a river or stream with only a hook and line because if the hook doesn't set it rips the flesh off a fish. Baited trolling is acceptable because the fish will attempt to eat the bait and be caught as a result. That brings to mind the old gag about the fisherman's apprentice who worked his way from deck hand to baiter and finally to master baiter.

An **expert mythical troll** would be one who has taken scaring children to especially gruesome lengths. Jumping out of a dark corner and shouting "Boo!" doesn't get it from a

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

professional troll. A pro will do, in a split-second, something like - with a deafening roar - grow from a tiny, baby fence lizard into a giant Tyrannosaurus Rex! An expert might change in a flash from a tiny pebble to a giant moss-covered boulder rolling down a hillside toward a crowd of people. An expert troll might be found under the hood of a wrecked car or could be hiding in the bowels of a garbage disposal in the kitchen sink! Find a place where a disaster could happen and that's where you'll find trolls - especially the experts - and especially at Halloween!

According to **Wikipedia**, an internet troll is a person who sows discord on the Internet by starting arguments or upsetting people, by posting inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community (such as a newsgroup, forum, chat room, or blog) with the intent of provoking readers into an emotional response or of otherwise disrupting normal, on-topic discussion, often for the troll's amusement. An expert internet troll would be one who is especially good at raising the hackles of other social media-goers. Most of the **expert internet trolls** are steeped in political controversy.

Perhaps the best internet troller is President **Donald Trump**. His skill at "tweeting" on Twitter took him from tv-show host on NBC to President of the United States of America in a matter of just 18 months! The thing about Trump is he addressed his trolling to Middle America's "great unwashed masses" while assuring that the message was caught by the mass or "mainstream" news media. Trump confounded the liberal news media - every time he tweeted, the literal meaning of his words set off a firestorm of reports from indignant news-readers and writers. Middle America understood what candidate Trump was saying between the lines; the media didn't - still don't!



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Even after securing the Presidency, Mr. Trump kept making them crazy. He claimed that **Obama** "wiretapped" Trump Tower during the election. The mainstream media, predictably, when stark-raving nuts! "How could he accuse his predecessor of such a thing without proof?" they asked. He knew exactly what he was saying - so did Middle America: Surveillance of the Trump campaign and its people was authorized during the campaign. Well, that news cycle hasn't stilled since just after 6:30am Saturday, March 4th when he tweeted, *"Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!"*

It turns out that expert troll Donald J Trump was right on the money. He caught the mainstream media hook, line and sinker! The investigations probably won't be over for years.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Thursday, May 18, 2017**

### **Rules Is Rules**

I recall an episode on Network TV over five decades ago in which the theme was about rules.

The storyline is, "Chet gets more than he bargained for when he makes a bet with [co-worker] Marsha that he can get a purchase order for a new piece of equipment by the end of the day."

Chet Kincade is in for a surprise in the fifth episode of the 1969 season of the Bill Cosby Show.

Kincade needs an air needle to inflate school basketballs. Marsha says he'll need a work order because Rules are Rules. Well, he offers to move a file cabinet for Ms. Beale, one of the school's administrators responsible for approving work orders. She admonishes him that he'll need a work order to do the job. "What would happen if you hurt yourself and didn't have a work order?" she asks. He says he'll take care of it. Chet goes downstairs to get the file cabinet, gets a hand from one of the students to get it on a dolly and move it into the hallway where the kid leaves him to go to class. Chet runs into a fellow worker as he's preparing to continue the move. The guy says, "You can't do that. You have to have work order. After all," he says, "Rules is Rules." All they gotta do is fill out a work order form, get it approved by the administrator and then process it. "It'll only take a week or so."

Well, since they can't leave the thing in the middle of the hallway, they move the cabinet into the administrator's office anyway. She is about to sign the authorization when she says,

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

"You didn't hurt yourself, did you?" Chet says, "It's only a little scratch." She freaks out and says she can't sign the authorization until the school nurse clears him to go back to work. When he objects she says, "Rules are Rules." It goes on from there and eventually, Chet realizes that Rules is Rules in a bureaucracy. You can watch the episode here: <https://youtu.be/RSdGod5cul0> It's funny.

The point of this little tome is to demonstrate why it's so difficult to make things happen in Washington. They actually had to change the Senate rules to get enough votes to confirm a new Supreme Court Justice. President Trump has been changing all sorts of rules through the use of Executive Orders - yet even he has to play by the rules.

He pushed hard to replace the Affordable Care Act but ran into a firestorm of rules in the House of Representatives. They had to pull the proposed legislation and start over. A compromise Bill temporarily funding the government until September was passed by both houses but it didn't include many of the things the President wanted - including funding for "The Wall."

Earlier in the month the President suggested that perhaps shutting down the government in September might be something to consider. And he said the Senate should get rid of the filibuster rule requiring sixty votes to pass legislation. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said he doesn't want to change the Cloture rule, even though it takes at least nine Democrats to get a Bill to the floor for a vote. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called the change that got Justice Neil Gorsuch confirmed "un-American."

The fact is that there is no provision in the US Constitution that requires the Senate to vote one way to have a vote another way on any issue. It gives the Congress the power to

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

make its own rules. The Cloture Rule was put in place on March 8, 1917. That old rule allowed Senator Strom Thurmond to filibuster for 24 hours and 18 minutes against the Civil Rights Act of 1957. A sixty vote super-majority is required to invoke Cloture, which shuts down debate and allows the Bill in question on the floor for a vote, one that only needs a simple majority to pass. In other words, the sixty vote super-majority is a tool that has been used by the Senate leadership to guarantee that a Bill will pass - before the official balloting is allowed. Politically, the sticky wicket, my friends, is those nine pesky Democrats. Oddly enough, eliminating the Cloture rule would require only 51 votes. But then, as they say ... Rules is Rules!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, May 22, 2017**

### Single Payer

Part D covers most drug costs with no annual deductible and co-pays ranging from zero to 45%.

I wrote about this a little earlier this year, but it needed fleshing out. The American single-payer system is already in place. Of course, it's called Medicare. Bernie Sanders ran something like this proposal up the flagpole not very long ago. Earlier this month Charles Krauthamer predicted a single payer system within seven years. It wouldn't take much to implement it this year.

All the market options giving consumers interstate choices from a number of supplements are already in place with the exception of dental and visual coverage. *Statistics quoted here come from CMS, the OMB, the US Census, the Social Security Administration and Wikipedia.* Medicare options include:

Part A hospital insurance provides essentially catastrophic coverage at no cost.

Part B covers 80% of medical costs with a small annual deductible for an affordable premium.

*Once Parts A and B are combined, the following supplements are made available:*

Part C (Medicare Advantage) covers a variety of medical expenses with deductibles and co-pays.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Part F covers 100% of medical, including the part B annual deductible.

Part G, with a small yearly deductible, covers 100% medical after the annual part B deductible.

Medicare was first proposed by President Harry S Truman on November 19, 1945. It did not come to fruition until July 30, 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson made Medicare law by signing H.R. 6675. Former President Truman was issued the very first Medicare card during the ceremony. At the time the budget for Medicare was about \$10 billion. Some 19 million people initially signed up for Medicare benefits.

With the exception of Vision and Dental options, all the parts for a single payer system have been in place and operational since 1980 and improvements have been added regularly since.

Routine preventative Vision and Dental procedures are not covered at this time but surgical procedures such as lens implants are covered under parts B, C, F and G. Adding coverage for routine annual Vision and Dental check-ups should pose no great challenge. Provisions for basic glass frames every five years and a new pair of lenses every year could be made available. Dental repairs, extractions, implants and dentures could also be covered.

Congress could make a working single payer healthcare system available to everyone with very little difficulty because almost all the parts are already in place. Health Insurance companies across the country could be urged to provide so-called Medigap coverage (parts C, D, F, G, etc.) competitively across state lines. Pre-existing condition coverage could be included universally. Medicaid could be replaced with applicable coverage from Medicare. Even a simple death benefit package could be created. All eligible

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

American citizens would be covered at no cost under part A from birth. Subsidies tied to household income could be offered to help with premiums for Part B coverage. Funding for Part B subsidies could come from a surtax on Medigap or supplement premiums. Nothing would change for current Medicare recipients except, perhaps, extension of subsidies for those who could qualify.

The 2017 net federal budget for Medicare stands at just under \$610 billion. The program is administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, better known as CMS.

Funding for the new *Medicare America* could come from eliminating Medicaid completely, removing the earnings ceiling (and its current surtax of 0.9%) and increasing the Medicare portion of FICA taxes levied on employers and employees from 1.45% to 6.2%.

There are 124 million FTE in the US today earning an average of \$30,000 per year. This makes total payroll in the US some \$3.8 trillion.

The combined employer and employee 12.4% FICA tax times 124 million workers would equal a gross Medicare budget of \$461.3 billion. To cover a population of 326 million that works out to \$1,415 per person per year. The net Medicare budget would be much less than \$461.3 billion because it would be offset by Part B premiums.

In 2016, total per capita healthcare spending was about \$10,000. With the proposed single payer Medicare tax applied, the difference would be made up of Part B and Medigap premiums, co-pays and deductibles totaling some \$8,586 per person.

### Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Today, Medicare gets \$870 per FTE. Distributed at \$331 per capita, that leaves \$9,669 in out-of-pocket medical expenses for every man, woman and child in the US this year.

A *Medicare America* single payer system such as that described above would save each citizen roughly \$1,083 per year - some \$3,357 per household compared to today's healthcare system.

The only thing that appears to be missing is a family plan with discounts for households. But healthcare entrepreneurs might figure that one out competing for premiums.

With no exclusions for pre-existing conditions, a subsidized Part B for those who qualify, optional supplements available with market-driven premiums, including additional Dental, Vision and Death benefits, coupled with free Part A hospital coverage for every US citizen from birth - funded by Part B premiums and a 12.4% Medicare tax on payroll - *Medicare America* could be just what the doctor ordered!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Thursday, May 25, 2017

### Economies of Scale

I shop at **Fry's** Food and Drug locally, mostly because it's convenient and the gas rewards are substantial. A few months ago, I noticed something strange - a price differential that seemed backwards from tradition. **Poise #6 Pads** in the **45 count** package were selling for **42.2** cents per unit. (Yes, I do compare prices by unit as well as brand.) What astounded me was the price of the **60-count** box of pads was **45** cents per unit - an *increase* of more than six percent!

A few weeks later I found the same kind of discrepancy when comparing prices on the **Ensure Original** nutrition shake at Fry's. Ensure **six**-packs were selling for **16.6** cents per unit while the **sixteen**-pack was selling for **18** cents per unit - eight per-cent *more*!

Economies of scale are what make unit prices less the larger quantity you buy. This is why a little can of tomato sauce seems more expensive than a big one - on a per-ounce basis, it is! This is also the reason why, if you ask the store manager, you can usually get a better price for a case of canned goods rather than individual containers.

Be that as it may ... on each occasion I fired off an email to Fry's Corporate and got back what appeared to be a bunch of excuses because nothing changed, although I did manage to brow-beat the Fry's local manager into giving me the 60-count Poise pads at the 45-count unit price, which struck me as a good marketing ploy, although it did nothing to help his other customers.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Here is the main paragraph of Fry's Corporate reply to my query:

*In talking to our category manager for these products, the Ensure pricing is being determined by ounce and the Poise pricing by count. All retailers, including us here at Fry's/Kroger, follow the same guidelines based on weights and measure. So if you went to other retailers, you would find a similar pricing structure.*

I sent the following emails to **Kimberly-Clark** and **Abbott** inquiring why the economies of scale don't apply to a couple of their products that cater to the elderly. The pricing structure appears to be taking advantage of older folks, who are more inclined to believe that the bigger package costs less per unit than the smaller package (which is generally true for most other products - buy more, pay less!)

*Kimberly-Clark: Been buying Poise Pads #6 for my wife. Why is the 33-count 39.4 cents per unit, 45-count 42.2 cents per unit and 60-count 45 cents per unit? What happened to the economies of scale? This appears to be taking advantage of the elderly. These are today's prices at Fry's in Globe AZ. (I'm working on a news story - expose? - and need more information. Thanks.)*

The reply:

*Thanks for your e-mail to Kimberly-Clark.*

*We have received your message, and your contact number is 021389581A. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call us toll-free at 1-888-525-8388 (U.S. and Canada only). Our representatives are available to take your call weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time. Please reference the contact number provided above for quickest service.*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

### *KIMBERLY-CLARK'S CONSUMER SERVICES TEAM*

This is the gist of the message that came the following Monday:

*You may be interested to know that neither Kimberly-Clark nor any other manufacturer controls retail prices charged to consumers for their products. Each retailer sets the price based on his or her individual business and the competitive situation. ... For this reason, the price of Poise product can vary from store to store. We are not permitted to dictate the price to our trade customers since the abolition of Retail Price Maintenance. The final price is set by the individual retailers.*

*Abbott: Been buying Ensure Original for my wife. Why is the 6-count 16.6 cents per unit and the 16-pack 18 cents per unit? What happened to the economies of scale? This appears to be taking advantage of the elderly. These are today's prices at Fry's in Globe AZ. (I'm working on a news story - expose? - and need more information. Thanks.)*

The reply:

*Thank you for your inquiry to Abbott. This is an automated note to provide you with the case number: 2701676, and to let you know that our Customer Service goal is to reply within two business days (based on U.S. Central time). We appreciate your interest in Abbott.*

This was Abbott addressing the subject on Monday:

*Abbott Nutrition does not set prices for retailers so you may want to speak to the store manager at Fry's about the pricing. You may find our products priced more attractively in some retail stores over others. You can check for retailers in your area by clicking on the link below:*

*<http://abbottnutrition.com/store-locator>*

*We have requested that a coupon mailing be sent to the address provided in your e-mail.*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

So both Kimberly-Clark and Abbott did not claim MSRPs for their products. That should mean we'd find a diversity of pricing in our local stores. So, I made it a point to hit the local **Safeway** and **Wal Mart** stores to check *their* pricing of these two well-known high-quality products.

Safeway carries two of the Poise products. The **27** count package came in at **48.2** cents per unit and the **33** count package worked out to **39.4** cents. With Ensure, on the other hand, more cost more. The Ensure **6-pack** was **18.8** cents per unit and the **16-pack** was **19.6** cents per unit.

Over at the Wal Mart Super-store, the Poise **27-pack** was **43.85** cents per unit and the **45-pack** was priced at **42.09** cents per unit. The Ensure **6-pack** was **16.6** cents and the **16-pack** was **15.6** cents per unit, exactly the kind of economies of scale one would expect from a competitive retailer.

	Poise	Ensure
<b>Fry's</b>	42.2<45	16.6<18
<b>Safeway</b>	48.2>39.4	18.8<19.6
<b>Wal Mart</b>	43.85>42.09	16.6>15.6

So with this information, we confirmed what Kimberly-Clark, Abbott and Fry's claimed. Are two out of three stores where I live intentionally screwing their older customers out of some meager amount of pennies in pricing? Probably not. But the question remains: Is the Big Box so profitable because of economies of scale on a world-wide basis? Or is it because it has a policy of price incentives that assure continuing customer satisfaction?

I still like my Fry's Food and Drug. Safeway offers some products and specials that the others do not. One thing is for sure though: I know where I'm getting Poise and Ensure in the future.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, May 29, 2017**

*Where's The News?*

Remember back in the day when the news started with about three or four minutes of the lead story followed by a commercial or two, followed by the rest of the half-hour of 30-second to one minute stories interspersed with one or two minutes of commercial content? I do. Only I was on the Radio and did the news for five minutes twice an hour .

Today we get a continual barrage of the "lead story" interspersed with supposition, opinion and commentary and four or five minute breaks for commercials. The rest of the news finds its way in every now and then, but only if it's a disaster like a plane crash or something.

It doesn't seem that long ago that I used to set the alarm for 6:30 Sunday morning to be up for **CBS Sunday Morning** with **Charles Kuralt** at 7:00. What a wonderful show! They did the news, much of it in depth, and they presented interesting stories about stuff from all over the world!

At dinnertime on Sunday the TV had to be tuned to CBS for **60 Minutes**. That one was an hour of in-depth news stories - not opinion pieces from the beltway, mind you - the real deal. At the end of the show maybe they had an opinion piece, and they always had letters from the viewers.

Things changed when **CNN** and the Gulf War happened. All of a sudden it was "continuous coverage" and long periods of ad-libbing, much of it opinion based on few facts with lots of video footage, live or pre-recorded. That's when **Wolf Blitzer** became famous. Remember?

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

That change to live, continuing coverage set the precedent for the way "news" is covered today. It has morphed from an interesting and orderly presentation of stories from the North East West and South (NEWS) to continuous blather from gaggles of ill-informed opiners babbling about whatever the mainstream media has decided the world needs to know - more than it wants to know - for the day!

However, there may yet be hope for real journalism. According to **TheBlaze**, **Bob Woodward**, one of the two **Washington Post** reporters who broke the Nixon-Watergate story wide open, said Wednesday that the "smug" news media are acting as though **Donald Trump's** presidency is a "try-out" and not reality. The iconic journalist then suggested that, despite all of the Russia hysteria, Trump is president and likely will remain president for at least a full term - maybe even longer. Woodward made the comments during an interview with **Axios'** **Mike Allen**. As recently as [last] Sunday, Woodward called on his fellow journalists not to "binge drink the anti-Trump Kool-Aid" and "dial back" all the negative coverage of the president. Woodward reiterated that message again Wednesday. "You have to have a presumption of good will," Woodward said, according to **Axios**. "I worry," Woodward told Allen, "I worry for the business, for the perception of the business." Woodward said that it's "not just Trump supporters" whom he fears the media's "smugness" may be alienating. "I think you can ride both horses: intensive inquiry, investigation, not letting up. At the same time, realize that it's not our job to do an editorial on this," Woodward said.

What happened to The News? Where did it go? Did it go completely away with Aile's and O'Reilly's departures from Fox? Other than the occasional disaster story - you know ... plane crash, flood, tornado, multiple traffic pile-up, murder, mayhem ... where did the real news go?

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

I write these columns because it's fun to dig into one subject and try to find current, interesting information on a single subject. Yes, I do inject my opinion a lot of the time, but I try very hard to make each piece real literature, something newsworthy. I hope my stuff is as interesting as that Charles Kuralt used to churn out each week.

Today, I'd like to take time out to honor our fallen war veterans. I'm one of the lucky ones who served during the Viet Nam war. My USMC service simply amounted to the luck of the draw. Didn't get called up for Viet Nam. Didn't get called up for Cuba. Stayed stateside all the way ... ready to Rock 'n' Roll. I'm proud to have been ready to go at the drop of a pin, and grateful it never happened. I'm also proud to have served in one of the best outfits ever put together in US history - the 1st Marines.

Today we do not honor the lucky ones. We honor those who died in place of the lucky ones. Memorial Day, originally Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. There is a website dedicated to this day appropriately named [http://www.usmemorialday.org/?page\\_id=2](http://www.usmemorialday.org/?page_id=2) Click on that link to read its contents. And at 3:00 this afternoon, take a moment to pause, contemplate and thank the American warriors who gave up their lives in the quest to keep us safe.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, June 1, 2017**

JapJoke!

Nissan Motors may have pulled off one of the greatest international practical jokes of all time. Let me tell you why.

Back in September of 2011 my wife and I and 300 bucks went looking for a new car. I didn't want to trade in the car we were driving, so I figured a \$300 down payment coupled with our good credit and the manufacturer's incentives would probably do the trick. Trump's *Art of the Deal* got nothing on ol' Terrible Ted, here!

We hit the local Ford dealership, being Ford fans since 1963 and owning a classic 1975 Ford Pinto Squire Station Wagon ... it seemed like the right thing to do. Ford had a little-bitty great mileage steed that was way over-priced so we went on our way, stopping along the way at retail and used-car dealerships in search of new wheels. There were a lot of nifty vehicles on the car lots across town, but none met our price requirements. (\$300 down, \$300/month.)

Finally, we pulled up at the local Nissan dealership. They had a good stock of cars including several other well-known brand names, all very nice and all very expensive. I got out of our little car and walked around looking at all the new models. One of them hit my eye. It was a beauty. It was gleaming white, simple, with classic lines. I asked to look at the inside and a saleslady insisted that I had to take a test-drive. I said, "Show me the engine compartment and then let me sit in the driver's seat." She insisted that we go for a ride because "they make me do that." I said, "Miss, if you want to make a sale you need to take me and my wife inside and get us in the box. I don't need a test-drive." "The box" is that tiny



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

office space with three chairs and a desk where automobile sales-people keep their prey while working with their "manager" to wring the most out of a potential sale.

Well we sat down and she took all the usual information and then I hit her with the \$300 deal. Of course, she had to take it up with her manager ... that's the deal when you're in the box. As she left us I said "Don't leave us here in the box for more than five minutes or we're outa here." Ten minutes later we had moved to a table on the showroom floor. She finally came back with a counter-offer, as expected, and I stated flatly, "You got \$300 plus the incentives for the down payment on that vehicle and I have \$300 a month for however long it takes. That's the deal. Tell your man I'm walking in five minutes, with or without a new car." What she didn't know was that her manager was an old friend!

It was a 2012 Nissan Sentra and it cost \$300 down and \$300 a month ... and it was ours!

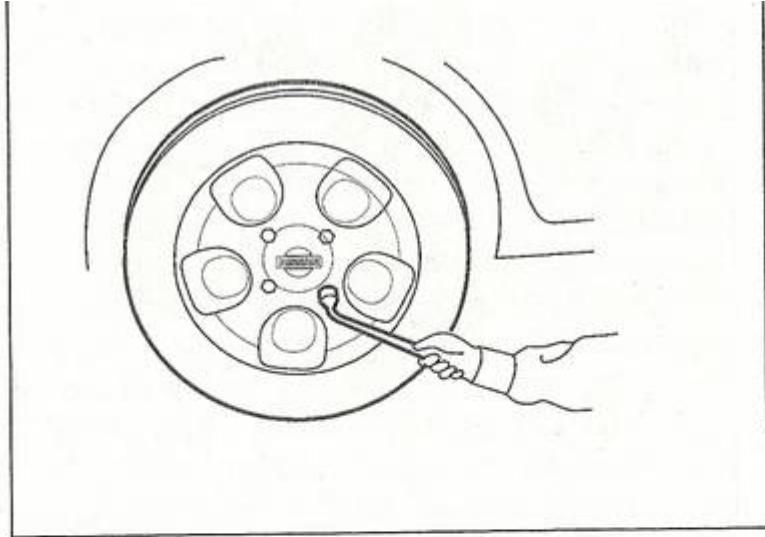
Well, here it is almost six years later and it's still a classic. That's because I took it to a local paint shop just after we bought it and had them put on three coats of clear-coat. In the Arizona desert most paint jobs on new cars last only three or four years - you've seen them with paint peeling off the roof and hood. That's the result of one coat of primer, one coat of paint and one coat of clear-coat. When the clear-coat wears off the paint goes fast in the Southwest. So here we are almost six years later and our baby is still like new, thanks to clear-coat, soap and water and Mother's Carnuba wax.

Just one thing: The wheels show through under the wheel-covers. And of late, they started showing the inevitable rust.

Last time we went in for routine service I asked if they could paint the wheels flat black - I would provide the paint - for an

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

extra coupla bucks. The answer was, "No, we don't do that. You need to take it a to a body shop for that sorta stuff."



Removing bolt-on wheel cover (if so equipped)

### CAUTION

**Do not use your hands to pry off wheel caps or wheel covers. Doing so could result in personal injury.**

Wheel cover attachment to the wheel is made by one of the wheel lug nuts. **This wheel lug nut needs to be removed before the wheel cover can be removed from the wheel.**

I had looked in my 2012 Sentra Owners Manual (page 6-4), checked it on-line and discovered that the wheel-covers had

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

one nut holding them on the wheel, so I asked the dealership which one of the lug-nuts held the wheel-covers on. Their service manager didn't know. Nobody knew.

There's this tattooed kid with a good aptitude for mechanics up the street and I saw him changing a tire on a pick-up truck the other day. So, I stopped and asked if he thought he could remove the wheel-covers, paint my wheels and re-cover them for twenty bucks if I provided the paint. I also told him about the lug-nut thing. Of, course a young man will do almost anything for twenty bucks these days, so we had a deal!

After my man had removed the first wheel-cover, he called me out to the car. All four of the lug-nuts were identical and all the holes in the wheel-cover were the same! Contrary to the internet and the 2012 Nissan Sentra owner's manual, there was no single lug-nut holding the thing on!

My Japanese car was made in Mexico. Is it possible that in changing the Owners Manual from Japanese to Spanish to English that something got lost in the translation? Nah, I don't think so!

It never dawned on me that a major auto manufacturer could do such a thing. After all these years ... what a great practical joke played on us Americans! Wow! Think of it! How wonderful!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, June 5, 2017**

Truth, Justice & the American Way

*"Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear, when from out of the past come the thundering hoofbeats of the great horse Silver! The Lone Ranger rides again!" as Brace Beamer used to announce.*

Those were the days of the Lone Ranger (Who was that masked man?), Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Tom Mix, Flash Gordon, Sky King, Red Ryder and ...

*"Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Superman! Yes, it's Superman--strange visitor from the planet Krypton who came to Earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Superman, who can leap tall buildings in a single bound, race a speeding bullet to its target, bend steel in his bare hands, and who, disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a great Metropolitan newspaper, fights a never-ending battle for truth, justice and the American way! It's Superman!"*

*"Holy smokes, Batman!"*

Do you realize that it's all within our reach? Right now? Yes! And it doesn't take super-powers! It just takes truth, justice and the American way! Let me explain.

A number of us conservative types have been complaining about how journalism has changed over the last quarter-century. Reporters used to report what they knew and where they got their information. It was Who, What, When, Where and Why to put together a news story. Every part of a story had to be corroborated by at least two separate sources. Un-

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

named and anonymous sources of information were fine as long as there were two other sources to verify the facts. Even the Police Blotter had to be verified. Whether you saw it on TV, heard it on the radio, or read it in the newspaper, you could believe it was the truth. Then things changed.

President **Richard Nixon** screwed things up by trying to cover up his involvement in a break-in by a team of Republican burglars at the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Hotel Complex in Washington DC the night of June 17, 1972. It took more than two years for the whole story to sort itself out, much of it before Congressional investigators and it even went so far as to include a ruling by the Supreme Court. What changed in the Summer of 1972 was the way reporters did their work. **Bob Woodward** and **Carl Bernstein** of the **Washington Post** newspaper used an anonymous source to gain deep-background information as the source of their "insider" newspaper stories. Fed by information and tips from "**Deep Throat**" they thrilled readers as the story unfolded over a period of two years. Television coverage took a turn, also. Reports on TV closely mirrored the Woodward/Bernstein stories in the Post. And TV began to run "expanded" coverage with "in-depth" reports.

**CBS 60 Minutes** premiered September 24, 1968, on a Tuesday night opposite the ABC hit show **Marcus Welby, MD**. The newsmagazine, as they came to call it, ran every-other Tuesday night. According to **Wikipedia**, *"By 1971, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) introduced the Prime Time Access Rule, which freed local network affiliates in the top 50 markets (in practice, the entire network) to take a half-hour of prime time from the networks on Mondays through Saturdays and one full hour on Sundays. Because nearly all affiliates found production costs for the FCC's intended goal of increased public affairs programming very*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

*high and the ratings (and by association, advertising revenues) low, making it mostly unprofitable, the FCC created an exception for network-authored news and public affairs shows. After a six-month hiatus in late 1971, CBS found a prime place for 60 Minutes in a portion of that displaced time, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. [Eastern Time, 5:00 to 6:00 Central] on Sundays, in January 1972." It was 60 Minutes that perfected the early Canadian "investigative" journalistic techniques, including hidden cameras, re-edited interviews, and "gotcha" visits to the homes or offices of the subjects of its investigations.*

With the advent of **CBS'** "gotcha" journalism and **WaPo's** acceptance of un-named sources, reporting began a slow turn from the whole, unvarnished, corroborated truth - justly stated in ways that reflected the traditional American way of news coverage - to what we have today.

Now, more than half the country doesn't trust the news media to present the straight story. According to **Breitbart**, only 29 percent of respondents in an April poll said they trust the media. Another poll found 88 percent in agreement with President Trump that the media is the enemy of the American people. **Newsmax** tells us that the **Harvard Kennedy School** and **Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy** recently published a study which examined coverage by **The New York Times**, **Wall Street Journal** and **The Washington Post**, broadcast outlets **CNN**, **CBS**, **Fox News** and **NBC**, and European news outlets the **Financial Times**, **BBC** and **ARD** in Germany. Study author **Thomas Patterson** wrote. "*Trump's coverage was unsparing. In no week did the coverage drop below 70 percent negative and it reached 90 percent negative at its peak.*" Trump's most favorable U.S. coverage has come from Fox, though 52 percent of the coverage was still rated as negative. CNN and NBC tied for

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

least favorable, with 93 percent of stories negative. In Europe, ARD's coverage was 98 percent negative.

So much for objective journalism. I'm guessing, rightly, that just about every mainstream news outlet has a political agenda supported by the far left in the Democratic Party and deeply entrenched employees in the so-called "Dark (Deep) State." An agenda that doesn't include truth, justice or the American way.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, June 8, 2017**

### Snowflakes Killing History

The magic words are everywhere: "I'm offended."

They fought it out in Southern California courts for years whether a War Memorial violated the constitution. According to **TIME** magazine, on December 13th, 2013 *"a federal judge ordered the removal of a giant cross from the top of San Diego's Mt. Soledad, ruling that it violates the constitutional separation of church and state. ... U.S. District Judge Larry Burns issued the order ... It's [part of] a long legal battle over the 43-foot cross, which was erected in 1954 as a memorial to Korean War veterans. In 2011, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the cross violated the First Amendment. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case."*

All this because a couple of Viet Nam Vets were offended. **Wikileaks** takes it up from there ... *"On July 20, 2015, a group called the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association reported that it had bought the land under the cross from the Dept. of Defense for \$1.4 million. On September 7, 2016 the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a one-page ruling, ordering dismissal of the case and an end to all current appeals, stating that the case was now moot because the cross was no longer on government land. Both sides agreed that this decision puts a final end to the case. An ACLU spokesman said, 'I think this now resolves the case. The government doesn't own the cross or the land underneath it any more. The government is no longer in the business of endorsing religion.'" Now that's a Hell of a story, spanning many decades.*



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

So, let's get up to speed. Today, just about anything is offensive. The South's iconic Civil War Flag - the "Stainless Banner" Battle Flag - has offended so many Snowflakes that it's been removed from City Halls and State Capitols all over the Country. **Warner Brothers** caved in to liberal demands that the Confederate Flag be removed from the **Dukes of Hazzard's** famous "07" orange Dodge Charger, the **General Lee**. According to a June 2015 **Rolling Stone** article, South Carolina Governor **Nikki Haley's** call to remove the Confederate Flag from the state capitol, moved some of the nation's biggest retailers to stop selling items bearing that symbol. The **New York Times** reported that Warner Bros.' decision to stop the license on Confederate Flag-bearing General Lee replicas came just days after **Walmart, Sears, eBay, Google Shopping and Etsy** all announced they would stop selling items that featured the Confederate Flag; soon after, **Amazon** stepped up their efforts to remove all items bearing that symbol on their online marketplace. However, the sudden purge of items branded with the Confederate Flag also resulted in a sales surge as collectors moved to stock up before the merchandise ultimately became unavailable. According to **Vulture**, the lone company licensed to reproduce the Confederate flag-branded General Lee as a toy, no longer makes The General.

**WFMY-TV** in Greensboro, North Carolina reported May 19th that the county Democratic Party had issued a resolution demanding that the rebel flag be removed from the Uwharrie Volunteer Fire Department in Montgomery County, where it has flown for more than 20 years. The station reported that people living across from the fire department in Troy declined to be interviewed, but see the flag as a symbol of their history and think there is no reason to remove it. The fire chief would not talk about the situation.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**TheBlaze'** **Matt Walsh** wrote May 22nd, "*The city of New Orleans completed its purge of its own history last week when a statue of **Robert E. Lee** was torn down. ... Throngs of historically illiterate people stood by and cheered as a monument to one of this country's greatest generals was destroyed.*"

And now, according to **TIME** magazine, they're talking seriously about "*pulling down Confederate statues in Charlottesville, Virginia.*"

Proud Southerners/Americans are wondering out loud how this sort of stuff can happen in a free society. How is it that history can be plucked out of the air and discarded just because it offends somebody who never participated in its creation?

No wonder Americans are angry!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, June 12, 2017**

*about Agent Orange*

Not long ago, central Arizona journalist **Susan K** wrote an article for the June 5th edition of **The Leader** Free Press that reviewed her research into the history of Globe, AZ and its bout with Agent Orange in the late '60s. Ms. Imperatrice promised a second column in the future. She has done a wonderful job over the years researching the pertinent facts about the Viet Nam era defoliant that contained death-dealing traces of dioxin. I'd like to fill in some of the blanks she may have missed.

**Agent Orange** (a mixture containing 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D weed-killer [defoliant] with traces of dioxin in it) was used in the Viet Nam War to denude vast areas of forests making it difficult for the enemy to attack US troops successfully. A significant number of American troops were in the wrong place at the wrong time and were inadvertently sprayed with the chemical defoliant. After many decades and thousands of horror stories from Viet Vets, the government finally agreed that veterans exposed to Agent Orange were entitled to VA care as well as some reparations. In certain concentrations, the dioxin contained in Agent Orange causes cancer or other defects in the flesh and organs of humans and other mammals.

After the hillsides above the canyons in the Pinal Mountains were sprayed with Agent Orange in 1968 and 1969 to thin foliage and create greater water run-off, a Kellner Canyon resident, **Bob McKusick**, began noticing strange things happening with his livestock. A neighbor, **Bob McCray**, began keeping a registry of alleged victims of the spraying who developed cancer. His work became a significant part of Arizona's ADHS Cancer Registry. Another neighbor, local

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

radio station owner **Willard Shoecraft's** wife, **Billee** died in 1977 from cancer, but not before writing a stunning expose of the damages unleashed on the canyon-dwellers of Globe, Arizona. She had been sprayed with the chemical in 1968. She and four other Globe families successfully sued **Dow Chemical Company** and **US Forest Service**, both of which settled for undisclosed sums in 1981 for permanent injuries suffered when the defoliant was sprayed on their homes. In her book, ***Sue the Bastards***, Shoecraft had written, "... *the world of deformities in plants, animals and humans may have a few less members, and the disease known as cancer may claim a few less victims.*"

When Claudette and I moved to Globe-Miami in 1992, Canyon Water District had been formed by Canyon-dwellers Bob McKusick and neighbor **Leon Lenox**. They couldn't use contaminated water from their wells, and had been successful in getting the City of Globe to set up a series of spigots near the Community Center so canyon residents could fill up and tote water provided by the City. It took decades, but they were finally successful in getting a distribution system installed in the canyons that eliminated the need to travel to the Community Center for safe, fresh water. Bob McCray (December 2000) Leon Lenox (July 2010) and Bob McKusick (June 2016) have since passed away.

There is a great article on Bob McKusick's website **EMFBlues.com** If you can, take the time to read it: <https://emfblues.com/agent-orange-test-sprayed-on-globe-az/>

There have been a number of folks openly worrying lately about residual Agent Orange from the spraying that happened in the Pinals in 1968 and 1969. Especially worrisome to some could have been the contents of smoke from the recent "*controlled burn*" of undergrowth in areas that had been sprayed with Agent Orange in the late '60s. Dioxin, actually a

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

contaminant in the defoliant, has been described as the deadliest poison known to man.

In Viet Nam, the military found that Agent Orange decayed very quickly in the open - in as little as one day to two weeks - but when they checked contaminated soil around airport areas where the stuff was stored, staged or loaded they found lethal concentrations of dioxin TCDD. The **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) had tested [dioxin] as part of the **National Dioxin Study**. They found the highest dioxin concentration anywhere in America on the helipad site above Globe in 1986.

The defoliant marketed by **Dow Chemical Co** as Silvex (code-named Agent Orange by the US military), contained two active ingredients - equal amounts of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), which containing traces of 2,3,7,8-TetraChloroDibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD). The dioxin TCDD is an unwanted toxic by-product of herbicide production.

A paper published in 2012 by **National Institutes of Health** (NIH) states: "*The chlorinated phenoxy acids 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T persist in soil for only a few weeks ... TCDD [dioxin] concentrations in stocks of Agent Orange ... ranged from less than 0.05 [parts per million] to almost 50 ppm and averaged 2–3 ppm in two sets of samples ... They [researchers at **Columbia University**] concluded that the mean TCDD concentration in Agent Orange was closer to 13 ppm.*"

More at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK195087/>

Agent Orange dries quickly after spraying and breaks down within mere hours or days when exposed to sunlight (if not

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

bound chemically to a biological surface such as soil, leaves and grass) and is no longer harmful - after all, its parts are weed-killers! The problem is the miniscule amount of deadly dioxin TCDD left over, which has a half-life of seven years.

So, let's do some math. The plant poison was last sprayed on the Globe canyon hillsides in 1969. As of this writing, it's 2017. That would put the occasion some 48 years ago. How many half-lives are there in 48 years? It works out to 6.86 times. (We'll round it up to 7 times just for the sake of simplicity.)

Now, let's assume that there was an unlikely concentration on the ground of some 13 ppm of the stuff. A half-life (7 years later - 1976) would find a concentration of 6.5 ppm, provided nothing changed (sun, wind, rain, fire, etc.) In another seven years (1983) the concentration would be down to 3.25 ppm. In 1990 it would be down to 1.63 ppm. 1997 would see .813 ppm and the concentration in 2003 would be .406 parts per million. 2010's concentration would be down to .203 parts per million. So, here we are in 2017 and it's down to .102 ppm or 102 parts per BILLION!

Agent Orange can't stay in the outdoors for very long. Its two main components are soluble in water and decay very quickly when exposed to air and sunshine. The dioxin TCDD decomposes at an incredible 932°F. Its seven year half-life applies only when protected from those three elements. If it washes into an aquifer, it stays potent. If it's ingested with water from that aquifer and lodges in the body, it's protected and decays at its 7 year half-life. It's a cause of deformities in all mammals and may cause Soft Tissue Sarcoma, Hodgkin's Disease and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in humans. Non-cancerous illnesses caused by dioxin include developmental and reproductive effects, immune system damage, hormone interference, skin disorders and possibly mild liver damage.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

In February of 2012 the EPA set its threshold for safe dioxin exposure at a toxicity equivalence (TEQ) of 0.7 picograms per kilogram of body weight per day. That's 7/10ths of a *trillionth* of a gram per kilogram of body weight. One kilo equals 2.2 lbs. Therefore, there would be no toxicity to a 220 lb man exposed to no more than 70 picograms of Dioxin PER DAY. The **World Health Organization** (WHO) says a safe level is three times higher (2.1 picograms) than EPA's call. Based on that scale, someone exposed 48 years ago could still be carrying around as much 1/2 a picogram and still remain healthy.

Susan K's excellent work aside, I'd like to allay any fears Globe-Miami residents and visitors might contemplate about any alleged residual Agent Orange or dioxin TCDD in the Pinals:

What is known, based on many decades of study, is that dioxin TCDD - the tiny amount of by-product created during the creation of the components of Silvex/Agent Orange - causes cancer from concentrations averaging 13 ppm to less than one percent of its original concentration, but only if it has been protected from the elements. Today, the only measurable amounts would be in the 102 ppb range in the flesh of local mammals and residents still living who had been exposed back in 1968 and 1969.

In short, there is no measurable toxic concentration of 2,4,5-T or 2,4-D or 2,3,7,8-TCDD left left above ground on the hillsides above Globe's canyons to contaminate anyone or anything. It has been absorbed by the earth, dissolved by the rain, oxidized by the winds, cooked by the Sun and burnt by forest fires. Because of Mother Nature, it's just gone!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, June 15, 2017**

Little Banty Rooster

Got a note from Tom Perez, the new Top Dog at the Democratic National Committee. He's busy recruiting folks to help elect Democrats to local, regional and national positions. On the face of it, the Democrats appear to be headed for deep kimchi if they want to elect candidates in any significant numbers in 2018.

The talking points Perez puts forth are what lost the election in 2016 - negativity. There is no plan to do anything productive or good for the country. Where is the rah-rah, we're the greatest? Where is the plan to make the Congress work again? Where is the plan for better healthcare and fairer taxes? For that matter, where is any plan for America's future. All there is relates to getting rid of Donald Trump. All they want to do is stand up and fight! Here are the main points from Perez' email to potential supporters like me:

"It's going to take all of us working together every minute of every day to fight back against Trump and the Republicans who are rubber-stamping his reckless agenda. Here are just a few of the ways we're doing it:

- We're standing up to Donald's dangerous agenda in Washington, from his budget that would cut billions from programs working Americans rely on to his disastrous health care bill that would cause 23 million people to lose their health coverage.
- We just launched Resistance Summer -- our nationwide, on-the-ground organizing program. We're building up neighborhood teams and talking to every voter in the country about how Democrats will fight for our progressive values and create an economy where everyone has an opportunity to succeed.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

- We're holding Donald Trump's feet to the fire by making sure we're getting out the facts about the ongoing investigation into his ties to Russia and his conflicts of interest.
- And we're working hard to win some important elections this year, starting with special elections in Georgia and South Carolina this month that will get us on the road to taking back our majority in Congress."

If that's all the National party has to offer - Standing up, Resistance, fighting, Russia and winning barely-winnable special elections in Georgia and South Carolina - there could well be a 2/3 majority in both houses of the Congress after the 2018 elections!

I wish these people would listen to me. But no! It wasn't that long ago that I put out a plan to build the party nation-wide, but nobody listened to the one-time nine-year Vice-Chair of the Gila County Arizona Democrat Party. Fine. These clowns need to understand that vinegar drives the bees away ... it's honey that makes the world go 'round! You wanta try to win elections by telling everybody what a bad bunch Trump and the Republicans are - you need to go back to the barn-yard and start over! The voters in the suburbs and middle-America are tired of the mostly negative attitudes and agendas of the Democrat Party and its leadership. Hillary lost because she and her minions didn't get it! Until the Democrat Party locally, regionally and nationally gets it, they will keep sinking further into the muck created by the party's second-rate beltway elites.

It's like this little banty rooster just crawled out from under a great big cow-plop. Perez needs to clean up his act, get the crud out from under his nails and get a real positive plan together. Soon.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, June 19, 2017**

*We suspect ...*

I love how the political wordsmiths in the government and the media make public statements. Being a writer/reporter/journalist for more than a quarter-century makes me appreciate how the news has come to be no less than a tool for political manipulation. Let me elucidate.

Since late last year the Fourth Estate has expanded its use of "un-named" officials as the sources of its information. It used to be ok, on occasion, for a reporter to not reveal the identity of the source of information for a story covering "sensitive" issues. Starting in November of 2016 and ramping up since then, stories coming from the mainstream media have become so sensitive that all sources must be protected from public scrutiny, even if the "shared" information is a mere suggestion, contemplation or speculation on the part of the source. In addition, the media feeds on itself as source material. Once an anonymous source of information is published, the publisher becomes the source for the rest of the MSM. Speculation and imagination become the crux of the story - not so much the "un-named" source.

This takes me back a couple of decades to a lunch-time presentation to the local Rotary Club. I chose fellow Rotarian and former Globe, Arizona mayor **Stan Gibson** as the center of attention to demonstrate how anonymous sources can provide information for a story with absolutely no basis in fact.

I explained how simple it would be to ruin Gibson with a simple question: "Is it true that you beat your wife?" The resulting headline, of course is "MAYOR DENIES WIFE-BEATING."

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

The meat of the story is all about his avoidance of run-ins with the law over his many years of public service. The police chief, an old friend, denies ever having any problems - ever - with the Mayor. When an anonymous neighbor is interviewed about the Mayor's denial of wife-beating, the answer is printed as, *"Well, of course Stan and his wife have been married forever and we've lived in the same neighborhood most of that time. They, like my spouse and I, have had our differences over time. And we haven't always been very quiet about it."* Other parts of the story describe how he has kept his temper under control at the office - attested by un-named city employees.

The paper in neighboring Safford picks up the story and trumpets, "WIFE-BEATING MAYOR PART OF POSSIBLE COVER-UP." They had dispatched a reporter who snooped around, continuing to get non-answers to the key question. Nobody could (or would) confirm the veracity of the original story.

Phoenix papers catch the stories and send reporters. One visits the Mayor, asking pointed questions about how he and his wife get along. His "famous" temper kicks in and he threatens to throw the reporter out of his office "if he can't be more respectful ..." The new headline goes something like, "NOTORIOUS TEMPER DOGS GLOBE MAYOR."

Not long after that, TV trucks, crews and reporters from the national media line up across from the Mayor's home - The headline? "RURAL MAYOR THREATENS MEDIA!"

Today's mainstream media are routinely building equally fallacious stories exactly the same way as I built the whopper about my friend Stan Gibson. They are doing it using unsubstantiated information "leaked" by anonymous government "officials." The MSM, most liberal Democrats

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

and the "Deep State" appear to be in cahoots, trying to make the case that the President must be removed from office. In the process, headline-sharing and quotes from social media have become supposedly acceptable forms of documentation. Each story builds on another and yet another and so on and so forth.

Perhaps there is hope on the horizon ... or not.

On May 26th, former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** penned the following blurb: *"The enabler in this destructive lawlessness is the news media. **CBS News' Fred Friendly**, who was **Edward R. Murrow's** producer, used to say just because you have the right to say or write something doesn't mean it is the right thing to do. The elite media has completely forgotten Friendly's standard and is using the First Amendment's freedom of the press as an excuse for publishing unending destructive leaks and smears. Part of the problem is the elite media's desperation to undermine and attack **President Trump** and his team. The growing number of stories based on unnamed or anonymous sources is just further proof of the media's mania. President Trump was right to challenge the news media to only print stories they could source by name. He knew that 90 percent of the attack stories would disappear because no one would take responsibility for the smears, lies, and innuendoes."*

Which brings us to **Andrew Klavan**. This guy posted an opinion piece on **YouTube** a while back. Before we're done, you've gotta watch this: <https://youtu.be/6F0Hv9TUrf8>

Don't think I can top that, troops.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, June 22, 2017**

### *Killing Mailboxes*

Back in the day, 20 years or so ago, the thing was trashing mailboxes. Unsupervised kids rode around in their cars brandishing baseball bats, which they used to beat neighborhood mailboxes. It was easy ... hang out the passenger-side window holding a bat and whack mailboxes as you drive by them. Wow! What fun!

Of course, that activity always appeared on the radio news. But, that just increased the frequency of mailbox drive-bys. One day, somebody on the radio and another person at the newspaper figured out what copy-cat meant and the news stories stopped. So did the mailbox trashing.

The real serious stuff began about the same time with a rental truck loaded with explosives, blowing up a building and the people in it. **Wikipedia** tells us the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995 was a domestic terrorist truck bombing on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma perpetrated by **Timothy McVeigh** and **Terry Nichols** in retaliation, they said, for the Ruby Ridge incident in 1992 and the Waco siege in 1993. The 7,000 pound nitromethane and ammonium nitrate fertilizer-based bomb killed 168 and injured 680 people. The blast destroyed or damaged 324 other buildings within a 16-block radius, shattered glass in 258 nearby buildings, and destroyed or burned 86 cars, causing an estimated \$652 million worth of damage. It was the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil until the September 11 attacks on the New York World Trade Center Twin Towers six years later, and it still remains the deadliest incident of domestic terrorism in United States history.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Eventually, the destruction morphed into vans and cars carrying explosive cargo. And today, it's deja-vu all over again on a world-wide scale. Cars and vans are still preferred, carrying people wrapped in explosive vests. Use of vehicles is certainly a lot easier and more comfortable than shooting up crowds at rock-n-roll concerts, malls or military bases and only slightly more effective than pressure-cooker bombs.

Now, we have terrorists driving into crowds of people, injuring and killing many of them. And if that's not good enough, jumping out and going after them with long-knives!

As with twenty-some-odd years ago, we can attribute at least some of the madness and mayhem to copy-cats and wannabes. Of course, it's a well-orchestrated assault on western society by a growing group of religious zealots bent on destruction of all who do not endorse their way of life. I would like to characterize this growing threat as Radical Islamic Terrorism, as the President prefers to call it, but it's more than that. There is ample evidence that there are actual unhinged crazy copy cats among them. Now, how do you deal with that? You can't just shut down world-wide news coverage of major events of murder and mayhem just to stop the nut-jobs, can you?

Today's coverage of news from everywhere shouldn't preclude a black-out, should it? Clear thinking says you take out the bad guys one or two or a dozen at a time, but dealing with the crazies is a whole 'nother story. The world can deal with evil. It always has and always will. But the spread of catastrophic damage motivated by mental problems must be addressed head-on.

Unlike mailbox trashing a couple of decades ago, Radical Islamic Terrorism, coupled with loony-tune copy cats, poses a problem more serious than anything humanity has ever seen.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

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**Monday, June 26, 2017**

America's Mom

**George H W Bush**, the 41st President of the United States of America (1989-1993) did a pretty good job running the country until he promised, "*Read my lips. No new taxes!*" But President Bush's real legacy was his wife, **Barbara**, who doesn't seem like she's aged a minute since the two retired from the White House!

According to the June 12th **Washington Examiner** ...

**Arnold Schwarzenegger** spent a [recent] Friday afternoon with his "inspirations": former President George H W Bush and former first lady Barbara Bush.

"Had lunch with two of the greatest Americans," the former California governor **tweeted** along with a photo of the trio. Schwarzenegger met the Bushes after his commencement speech at the **University of Houston**. "President Bush & Barbara have helped me, mentored me and inspired me to enter public service," the actor tweeted. "It was fitting — because my message to the graduates at University of Houston was that I'm not a self-made man - I had a lot of help."

On **Instagram**, Schwarzenegger wrote, "Today my speech to the graduates at the University of Houston was all about the people who helped me and inspired me throughout my life ... Because when you acknowledge that you are the product of a lot of help, you will give back and help others."

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Praising the Bushes, the actor wrote, "I was so lucky afterward to have lunch with two of my greatest inspirations. President Bush and Barbara have always put this country first and it will always be my great honor to call them friends and mentors. They inspired me to enter public service."

The Governor appreciated Barbara Bush, the girl who married the first man she kissed. George H W Bush met Barbara at a Christmastime dance when she was just 16 years old. They married two years later. She loved to tell the kids about that: *"I married the first man I ever kissed. When I tell this to my children, they just about throw up."*

She and George HW had six kids. Their second child, Pauline Robinson "Robin", died of Leukemia at the age of three.

Their first child was George W Bush, who went on to become the 46th Governor of the State of Texas and the 43rd President of the United States. She may well have given this advice to him after he was elected POTUS: *"You may think the president is all-powerful, but he is not. He needs a lot of guidance from the Lord."*

George W Bush married Laura, a Librarian who must have impressed her Mother-in-law as something extra-special. Barbara had this to say about that: *"... learning never ends, and as we enter the next century, it will be more and more important for all Americans to be lifelong learners. . . . every one of us can contribute in some way to a better-educated America."* Barbara promoted reading. *"The home is the child's first school, the parent is the child's first teacher, and reading is the child's first subject."* One of her best Laura-inspired remarks was about learning. *"Libraries have always seemed like the richest places in the world to me, and I've done some of my best learning and thinking thanks to them. Libraries*



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

*and librarians have definitely changed my life and the lives of countless other Americans."*

The thing about Barbara Bush is she was always mindful of the things that count in life. *"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."*

She was (and still is) admired by women all over the world for her outlook on life. *"Your success as a family... our success as a nation... depends not on what happens inside the White House, but on what happens inside your house."*

It was rough on Barbara when she and George evacuated the White House in favor of Bill and Hillary Clinton. She had been the Second Lady for eight years and First Lady for four. After they had returned to their home in Houston, Texas, the two were visited by their son George W and at that point she realized she had not cooked in twelve years, and had difficulty driving on her own to the point where she did not drive far from home for a long time. According to **Wikipedia**, "George HW warned people to get out of the way if they saw her car!"

Barbara had four more kids between 1953 and 1959. Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy (Doro) are all successful adults who provided her and George HW with fourteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She dotes on all of them as well as every child she meets. On September 28, 1995, the couple drove to Portland, Maine for the announcement of the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. Mrs. Bush said her life was being stretched, adding, *"Long after I am gone this hospital will be there with my name."*

Barbara Bush ... definitely America's Mom!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, June 29, 2017**

*Viable 3rd Party?*

**Bernie Sanders** is an Independent, not a Democrat, although he caucuses with the Dems. On June 13th the **New York Times** published an article penned by Sen. Sanders that read in part:

Republicans now control almost two-thirds of governor's offices and have gained about 1,000 seats in state legislatures in the past nine years. In 24 states, Democrats have almost no political influence at all.

If these results are not a clear manifestation of a failed political strategy, I don't know what is. For the sake of our country and the world, the **Democratic Party**, in a very fundamental way, must change direction.

If nothin' else, ol' Bernie is known for callin' a spade a spade!

Back in late February, The **Washington Times** ran a thoughtfully constructed article about Sen. Sanders and the **People's Party** by **Seth McLaughlin** and **Valerie Richardson**. Excerpts:

Democratic Party insiders say efforts to draft Sen. Bernard Sanders to launch a political party are foolish, doomed to fail and could do more to hurt than help the progressive cause.

The pressure on Mr. Sanders to strike out on his own is intensifying now that former Labor Secretary **Tom Perez** was elected chairman of the **Democratic National Committee**, overcoming a stiff challenge from Rep. **Keith Ellison** and progressive activists

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

who say the party's primary race last year was rigged against the Vermont independent.

But DNC members ... said the efforts - including from the Draft Bernie for a People's Party - are misguided.

"He ran for president through the party, did extraordinarily well, better than anybody thought he was going to do, and I think it is incumbent upon him to make sure that his base stays in line with the party to ensure that we win races," said **Daniel Halpern**, a DNC member from Georgia.

Whether Mr. Sanders can control the movement he launched is another question. Pro-Sanders progressives may have nothing in common ideologically with the **tea party**, but they are poised to wreak the same kind of intraparty havoc by taking on the Democratic establishment in 2018 - or sooner.

Democrats facing re-election next year already are hearing buzz around primary challenges from the left as progressives move to flush out the establishment and put their stamp on the party, just as the tea party did on the **Republican Party** in 2010 and 2012.

**Adam Green**, co-founder of the **Progressive Change Campaign Committee**, threw down the gauntlet before the DNC chairmanship race by saying that "ideally there would be no need for primaries against incumbents because Democrats in office will fight Trump so boldly, consistently and effectively."

The uprising has begun on a local level. The party leadership and Democratic central committees are more progressive than ever after Sanders voters in

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

some states flooded caucuses and in some cases ousted the so-called establishment.

Sen. **Claire McCaskill**, Missouri Democrat, acknowledged that she could be among the progressives' top targets in the primary next year.

Other Senate Democrats ripe for a progressive primary challenge include **Joe Donnelly** of Indiana, **Heidi Heitkamp** of North Dakota, **Joe Manchin III** of West Virginia and **Jon Tester** of Montana.

The problem for the party? Those Democrats all represent states won by President Trump, who was elected by voters who may not feel, as the progressive resistance does, that the relatively moderate incumbents aren't far enough to the left.

Said political consultant **Floyd Ciruli**. "They need three states to take the Senate. They'll be lucky if they don't lose three states if the strategy turns out to be, 'Give primaries to vulnerable incumbents.'"

Democrats have scrambled to head off a tea party redux by reaching out to the progressive upstarts. Mr. Perez set the tone ... by quickly naming his opponent, Mr. Ellison of Minnesota, as his deputy chairman.

"If people trust me, then they need to come on and trust Tom Perez as well," Mr. Ellison told the crowd.

Sanders ally **Jim Zogby**, a DNC member from the District of Columbia, said Mr. Sanders is absolutely better off trying to channel his popularity and the activist energy that has sprouted up against Mr.

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Trump into transforming the Democratic Party from the inside.

But leaders of the Draft Bernie for a People's Party ditched the Democrats after the November election, arguing that the leaders of the DNC - first Rep. **Debbie Wasserman Schultz** and then **Donna Brazile** - helped rig the primary in favor of Mrs. Clinton.

"There is no future for progressives in the Democratic Party," the group said in a statement.

The group envisions fielding a presidential candidate in 2020 and running candidates in 2018 against Republicans in districts where Mr. Sanders' populist message could resonate, as well as against Democrats in blue districts that supported Mr. Sanders in the presidential primary.

Asked about the People's Party push, **Jeff Weaver**, a longtime adviser to Mr. Sanders, said, "I don't know if that one is that serious."

But he acknowledged that Mr. Sanders "has not closed the door" on a third-party run.

**Mark Hammond**, chairman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, said he hopes Mr. Sanders sticks with the party.

"Third parties have never been successful," Mr. Hammond said. "This has always been a two-party country from its inception. No third party has lasted long."

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

“The impact of a Bernie’s People Party or a populist party would be to split the progressive vote into two components and ensure a pretty regressive Republican control,” he said. “They would be spoilers. To a degree, the ‘Bernie or Bust’ people were spoilers.”

As I noted in a July 28th column last year, both Republicans and Democrats are outnumbered by the nation's Independents.

"The **US Census** provided [this] information about America’s registered voters. It revealed that 3% of them have no political affiliation. 26% are Republicans. 29% are Democrats. And the remaining 42% call themselves Independent.

"Even being immersed in politics and journalism, I had no clue that the great unwashed mass is composed of Independents! Holy smokes! What an epiphany! This election cycle could be a turning point in American history because there actually is a Silent Majority.

"These are the people who are fed up with government interference and political correctness. These are the ones who own firearms and know how to use them. These are the ones who could control the horizontal and vertical in our future. These are the blue-collar workers, the clerical staffs and the folks who stand behind the counters at McDonalds and Circle K stores. Is it any wonder that the movers and shakers of the major political parties are at each others' throats?"

There are a number of "Independent" parties. Among them are the **Tea Party** with its diversified groups scattered across the country, the **Libertarians**, the **Green party**, the **Reform party** as well as the fully organized Independent party. These are all called "third" parties. There are so many of them, and

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

they are so splintered, that Independent voters can't be counted on as a Bloc.

And now we have this push to create a People's Party to elect Bernie Sanders. Between the Independents and the un-affiliated, some 45% of America's registered voters are represented. That's pretty intimidating when you stop to think about it. If they're successful in creating a third party, building on it and actually surviving the huge barriers that over time have impeded third parties' effectiveness and viability, Bernie Sanders could well be on his way to the Presidency.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, July 3, 2017**

Impeachment?

So, here we are about to celebrate our Independence from British King George III's tyranny some 241 years ago - waiting to see if investigators can come up with enough evidence to support the impeachment of President Donald J Trump. You'd think that key members of the Democrat party, leaders of the Deep State, and American mainstream journalists would understand what impeachment really is.

I am totally amazed at the universal ignorance of Article II Section 4, one of the key parts of the United States Constitution. Promoters of Impeachment Proceedings against the President include House members Brad Sherman CA, Danny Davis IL, Yvette Clark NY, Marcy Kaptur OH, Steve Cohen TN, Al Green and Sheila Jackson Lee TX, as well as California's outspoken Maxine Waters. That constitutes just over 4% of the 193 Democrats in the House. Not bad when you consider that 32 million (10%) of Americans are also "functionally illiterate."

Let's review what it takes to impeach a sitting President of the United States of America.

First: What is impeachment? Well, in essence, it's like a grand-jury but instead of fifteen to twenty-three citizens sitting on the panel, there are four-hundred-thirty-five members of the US House of Representatives. A member of the House must introduce a resolution condemning the President and charging him with wrong-doing. At that point the resolution is debated on the floor and eventually brought to a vote. Right now, it would take 24 Republican members jumping ship to obtain a majority vote to impeach -



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essentially an indictment by the country's largest Grand-jury. Not very likely - especially considering the cost to get an indictment. Over some four-and-a-half years it cost \$79.3 million to get the evidence together to indict (impeach) Bill Clinton.

Secondly ... if there is a True-bill returned from the House of Representatives, the charges would be referred to the Senate for trial. A number of Senators, most probably from the Judiciary Committee, would prosecute the case. When and if a vote is taken, it would take a two-thirds majority (67 Senators or 66 plus the President of the Senate [Vice President Pence]) to convict and remove the President from office. There are probably not seventeen Republicans willing to join the opposition in order to convict.

Finally, there have been only two Presidents successfully impeached by the US House - Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. Richard Nixon was put in for impeachment, but resigned before the House proceedings got underway. The Senate exonerated both Johnson and Clinton. To date, no US President has ever been convicted of what our Constitution describes as "high crimes and misdemeanors." Furthermore, it's unlikely that President Donald J Trump will be successfully impeached by the House - much less convicted by the Senate of any alleged wrong-doing.

The question is - how many millions of our tax money will be spent on what the President calls a "witch-hunt" before the Democrats in the House fail to bring in a True-bill? Is it worth it?

Hey ... have a safe, happy and patriotic Independence Day!

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## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Thursday, July 6, 2017**

**Dems Can Win!**

Since November 7th the Republican Party has won five elections - the Presidential Election and four Special Elections to fill Congressional seats emptied by Presidential appointments. What has become clear is the Democrat Party is being demoralized and the GOP is being energized.

If you stand back, close your eyes and listen to folks from each of the two political persuasions, you can hear why the liberal party is losing. The difference between dark and light, distinction between lemonade and Hawaiian Punch, the stark contrast between rock salt and hard candy - it's as plain as the nose on your face. It's the difference between a smile and a frown, good vibes and bad, the optimist and the pessimist ... and yet the Democrat Party leadership just can't see it.

It's one of the reasons I'm no longer a Democrat. The liberals and progressives among Democrats are unhappy about everything. Nothing is good enough. Pretty much anything you can say to a Liberal Democrat will be met with negativity. The Democrat leadership in the Congress is just nasty! Chuck Shumer has had hardly anything positive to say publicly all year. Same goes for Nancy Pelosi. And oh, yeah ... Maxine Waters. Lord, help us!

Even so, the whackos just keep on coming: During the House's two-week April recess, Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon filed a bill that would remove the President from office under the guise of the 25th amendment, purportedly claiming the Chief is mentally ill.

The Beltway elites and the liberal movers and shakers along the left coast and in the northeast have whipped their

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

constituents into a frenzy of hatred, thinking mistakenly that they can hold on to power if they can precipitate a congregation of angry minorities. While there is plenty of organized dissent and demonstration, today's mainstream Democrat wants no part of the hate and discontent being fomented by the party's elected and appointed leadership.

Tom Perez, the new Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, at least is trying to steer the party onto a more positive tack.

Meanwhile, Republicans always seem to have a positive outlook. They're pretty much happy with the hands they're dealt. Even when they're angry about something they don't make negative threats. Instead, they state positively and succinctly what will happen as a result of their ire. In short, theirs is a winning attitude. And, as the saying goes, "Everybody loves a winner."

I recall the reaction of the mainstream media to Karen Handel's dramatic win over Jon Ossoff in Georgia's 6th Congressional District special election - the most expensive Congressional election of all time - some \$30 million spent by the Democrats alone. I remember the shot of four CNN commentators aghast at the early announcement that Handell had won. Their shock was quite a sight. It was a similar situation at CNBC as well as MSNBC. One of the things that killed Ossoff's chances was a series of Republican TV Commercials pointing out that if the Democrats were successful in re-taking the House they'd have Nancy Pelosi as the Speaker again. That motivated GOP voters to turn out in droves!

Democrat Rodney Stooksbury spent nothing in the District Six Congressional race in 2016 and lost the race to Republican Tom Price with 124,917 votes. Price was appointed HHS Secretary on February 10th by President Trump, forcing the Special Election. The Ossoff campaign

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

alone spent more than 23 million dollars to attract 124,893 votes and lost to Handel. Ossoff garnered 49.1% while Handel won with 51.9%. Based on the Dem's turnout in 2017, at least 24 of the Democrats who voted in 2016 stayed home this year because of the rain. It's unbelievable that Ossoff actually spent just over \$184 for each of his 124,893 votes - and still lost!

I think the DNC should be all over this thing like stink on Caca! These sad, droopy-butt losers have got to go. The Democrats need winners - people with attitudes that Americans can identify with right now! We need a pro-America stance that puts our people back to work in both Union and non-Union Shops all over the country! We need to enlist the assistance of our American manufacturing, construction and transportation industries to re-build our infrastructure - not just the highways, tunnels and bridges, but also rail and the electric grid from Barrow, Alaska to the Florida Keys and from San Diego to Caribou, Maine.

We need to get back to the core values of America - God, Country and Family - in that order, self-sufficiency, pride in a job well-done, and faith in our people to always do the right thing! Without the blessings of God, we wouldn't have a country. Without the blessings of our country, we couldn't keep our families together. And without the support of our families, we couldn't possibly sustain the drive that makes America so great! That is the stuff that wins elections! That's what Democrats are all about!

I don't want to belabor the issue, but today's Democrat leadership either needs to get with the program or step down in favor of a more positive bunch. No really, troops. It's way past time for them to poop or get off the pot!

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## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Monday, July 10, 2017**

### *Embracing the Palestinians*

I've thought and thought - over decades - about how to solve the problem of Palestinians displaced by the Jewish State of Israel, which was established on May 14, 1948. The United Nations voted November 1947 to partition Palestine. Since that time there have been wars and intermittent fighting between the Palestinian Authority and the Israelis over the Old City of Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, as well as the Golan Heights.

The whole territory used to be Palestine. But during the Russian Revolution, WW I and WW II Jews from all over the world migrated to the territory described in both the Bible and the Torah as the Holy Land. This continuous migration displaced so many Palestinian Arabs that by 1948 more than half of the country's residents were Yiddish speakers of the Hebrew language.

According to History.com "During the third Arab-Israeli conflict - the Six-Day War of 1967 - Israel again greatly increased its borders, capturing from Jordan, Egypt, and Syria the Old City of Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. In 1979, Israel and Egypt signed an historic peace agreement in which Israel returned the Sinai in exchange for Egyptian recognition and peace. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) signed a major peace accord in 1993, which envisioned the gradual implementation of Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli-Palestinian peace process moved slowly, however, and in 2000 major fighting between Israelis and Palestinians resumed in Israel and the occupied territories."

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Meanwhile, the Palestinians had been teaching their offspring to hate the Jews and encouraged young and old alike to fight by all means to take back their traditional territory of Palestine. President Jimmy Carter tried to settle the Israeli/Palestinian disputes. Secretary of State John Kerry failed to come up with a solution both parties could accept. President Donald Trump has made overtures to both the Palestinians and the Israelis, but so far to no avail.

So, what are we supposed to do? The right-wing conservatives among us would just as soon leave the diplomatic solutions at the door and leave the two sides alone to determine their own destinies. Our American Liberals would give Jerusalem, the occupied territories and the Golan Heights to the Palestinians. Neither is a workable solution to the problem.

Biblical Palestine consisted of Samaria, Judea and Idumia, pretty much delineated by the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The territory expanded to include Perea and Galilee, and eventually included Batanea and Auranitis, all under the rule of Herod the Great. The Bible's Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was sent by Pontius Pilate to King Herod, who could find no wrongs and sent him back to Pilate who stated to the Jewish Elders, "I having examined him before you, found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: no, nor yet Herod: for he sent him back unto us; and behold, nothing worthy of death hath been done by him." But after all was said and done, Pilate and the Elders agreed that Christ should be crucified.

My plan could bring peace to the Holy Land. Make Palestine a whole, united country once again. Israel is situated on the Mediterranean between Lebanon in the north, Syria and Jordan to the east and Egypt to the south. Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza Strip are "occupied territories" taken

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

during an assortment of wars with Israel's Arab neighbors. My solution would be to name the whole territory Palestine, which would be comprised of five free and independent states - Israel, Golan, West Bank, Gaza and the Holy City Jerusalem. Jerusalem could be patterned after Rome, becoming the home of Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths living together in peace.

Composition of the newly re-created Palestine could be patterned after the United States of America, with each state representing its people in a central government much like our own.

Palestinians are mostly Sunni Muslim Arabs, lead by Hamas and Fatah, who want the whole territory for themselves whatever the cost. The remaining population are Christian Arabs living peacefully among their Jewish neighbors. Palestinian Christians make up one of the world's oldest Christian communities.

The solution, of course, is for Israel to annex all the territory under dispute by force, remove its hostile Hamas and Fatah leadership and declare the whole territory the re-created State of Palestine. After the hostilities subside, all interested parties could be invited to participate in a Convention to draw up a Constitution for the whole country. For some reason, I think Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and even the Saudis would join hands to support such a plan. Muslim Arabs understand brute force. And that's what it would take to re-create Palestine. That, and a lot of help from God - He who looks after people of all faiths.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, July 13, 2017**

Dead Horse?

I've been beating on **Fox News**, tweeting unmercifully for some time now ... trying to get them to deliver a "fair and balanced" presentation of the day's news every day. I gave up on **CNBC** long ago and **CNN** is so far out there now, I can't watch more than about five minutes before I tune out. Fox, on the other hand ... although I couldn't prove it ... appears to have been paying attention!

I've been bugging Fox - all of their shows - for following the lead of all the rest of the MSM instead of taking the lead. Why be lazy journalists Friday afternoon through Monday morning? Why run continuous coverage of some inane comment made mid-day Friday. Why not lead the way and come up with new stories over the weekend? Why spend 30 minutes on the dead horse everyone else in the MSM wants to keep beating?

Why not take the lead and return to the days when a half-hour news program (actually, if you took out the commercials, just 23 minutes) consisted of a five-minute lead story followed by four two-minute stories and about ten sixty-second stories. There was room for fifteen stories from all over the world. There was room for in-depth news as well as headlines without being hysterical. In other words you could cover thirty different news events in an hour and still have 14 minutes of local and national commercial time available. Nutin' wrong wid dat!

I saw something happen the Saturday before Independence Day when President Trump was addressing Christians and Veterans at a rally in the Kennedy Center. The theme was all pro-American, pro-Veterans, pro-Christians and pro-patriots.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Our POTUS did us all proud. What I saw was totally unexpected ... as I went channel-surfing to see who was carrying the event, I found Fox News and **MSNBC** with live coverage. Fox, yes! But MSNBC? OMG! After three days of Trump-bashing from "Morning Joe" this was absolutely stunning.

Is it possible these people finally figured it out? Not on your tin-type! Sunday morning MSNBC, which now commands the number two spot in TV ratings behind number one Fox News, was back Trump-bashing, picking apart his every word during the visit to the G20 Summits. CNN wasn't far behind, trying its best to drag itself out of 13th place in the ratings by pointing the negative finger at Trump's isolationism.

But the horse-beating continued, even in the face of Trump's brilliant elocution in Warsaw, Poland on July 6th - which had the MSM's heads spinning!

It even confused some of the brighter talking heads on Fox News and **Fox Business**! On the **Tucker Carlson Tonight** show Democrat strategist **Brad Woodhouse** got away with declaring that President Trump's speech contained phrases that are "dog whistles" for white nationalist elements. "I don't think that we should over-analyze speeches written for Donald Trump to read." Instead of looking at the speech as one given by the president, viewers might take a look at who wrote it. Woodhouse said that Trump is "not intellectually curious" and may not realize what he is saying.

Former MSNBC intel analyst **Malcolm Nance** reported, "That speech was the ultimate fulfillment Osama Bin Laden's ideology of the belief that there would be a clash of civilizations between what he views as his crazy version of Islam and the West. His version would eventually go into a war with the West and Trump seemed to embody and

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

enshrine that belief that the West should steel itself for a clash of civilization with other cultures, other beliefs, which pretty much spelled out, you know, the Muslim world."

CNN's **Jeff Zeleny** mocked Trump's speech as an antiquated address designed to appeal to "white America" and those who want "America first." The White House correspondent claimed that the address, "wasn't a modern day speech," even though it produced chants of "USA! USA!" from the crowd.

CNBC ran a clearly doctored hit piece claiming that the President was snubbed by Poland's First Lady **Agata Kornhauser-Duda**. An unedited view of the original footage clearly shows no snub as the two First Ladies - looking forward to meeting - reach out to shake each others' hands before turning to the menfolks.

Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Uw6VKpbqp0>

Then came the **New York Times**, still beating the dead Russian horse, with a claim that Donald Trump Jr. was party to a nefarious meeting at Trump Tower in New York with a Russian woman named Natalia. (They refrained from revealing whether she was related in any way to Natasha or her partner Boris Badenov.)

CNN's **Jake Tapper** just had to get in on the action, "... Trump Jr. recently admitted to meeting with a Russian lawyer with the intention of getting dirt on Hillary Clinton ..."

The **Washington Post** chimed in, "... Jr.'s false and misleading statements on his involvement with Russians add to the argument that this is a man behaving as if he had something to hide."

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

And true to form ... Fox was playing the copy-cat - repeating every word the rest of the MSM had to offer. Oh, that pesky Russian dead horse again.

The news cycle seems to have stretched some in the last few months - from about 36 hours to about three-and-a-half days! That means you'll hear/see the same stuff from early Friday to Monday afternoon. and then from Monday afternoon to early Friday. This is turning out to be lazy journalism at its worst! Now, it's like the Piranhas will feed - no matter what! Whether they will eat the dead horse remains to be seen.

Former Congressman **John Linder** wrote the following for yesterday's **Daily Caller**:

"And now the media admits that in their effort to destroy President Trump they lied. We have been told, ad nauseam, that all 17 intelligence agencies agree that Russia 'hacked the election.' It was a lie from the start. How much time do you think the Drug Enforcement Administration Office of National Security Intelligence spent on this matter? I'll tell you. None. Former Director of National Intelligence Jim Clapper has testified that only selected personnel from three agencies even looked at it ...

"In the last week both the NYT and AP have admitted, in very modest corrections, that all 17 agencies did not take a position on whether the Russians hacked the election. Despite that, both CNN and NBC have repeated the lie ...

"Today we are on to a new Russian connection. Donald Trump, Jr. met with a Russian to get dirt on the Clinton campaign. This is getting a more coverage than the attempted assassination of Steve Scalise.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

"Having been involved in campaigns for 45 years let me tell you a little secret. One hundred percent of all campaigns get offers of dirt on their opponent. One hundred percent of them try to get the information. Ninety nine percent are bogus, but none are illegal ...

"This is politics, folks. You look for advantage.

"Special Counsel Robert Mueller knows that there is nothing to find in the 'Russian matter.' If the Trump campaign had provided a desk and phone in the campaign office for Vladimir Putin himself it would have been impolitic, but not a crime."

It seems clear that the MSM (or as the **Washington Times** calls it - *the magpie media*) has declared that all things Trump are dead horses deserving merciless beating! Even as we speak, them ol' kids are hard at it - beating yet another poor dead horse! Know what else? They won't let sleeping dogs lie, either!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, July 17, 2017**

The CNN Two-Step

**Andrew Klavan** of **PJMedia**, penned an article titled "***Doin' the CNN Two-step***". Here is a piece of his July 6th screed:

"There is little in the news today quite as delightful as watching the mainstream media do the CNN Two-Step. The CNN Two-Step is a simple dance. Step One: Put your foot in your mouth. Step Two: Shoot yourself in the foot ...

Klavan was making the point that the mainstream media still hasn't learned that picking on the President, especially Donald Trump, is a losing proposition.

"... there is one simple fact they don't get: Trump's attacks on the press aren't a bug in the administration. They're a feature.

"After sixteen years of listening to CNN and the networks and WaPo and the *New York Times* attack the honest George W. Bush relentlessly, then coddle the corrupt Barack Obama; after listening to Middle-American values disdained and the Tea Party movement denigrated; after being told their opinions were only a backlash to the progressive genius of the elites; after being told they must not say what was right in front of their eyes whether it was Islamic terrorism or that boys aren't girls or that cops make black neighborhoods safer... after sixteen years of snarling contempt from the fancy-pants mouthpieces of large media corporations, the American people elected Donald Trump, in part at least, to send the media a message.

"The message is: Go to hell. It's about time the press received it loud and clear."

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Talk about nailin' it! Klavan's my boy! For over a year I've been complaining about the MSM reporting stupid things and faking the news. But I've never gotten it just right, like Klavan here.

It seems to me that America's pool of reporters has become overrun with wet-behind-the-ears post-teens who grew up reading the **National Enquirer** and actually bought into that type of sleaze journalism. They used to call it "yellow" journalism. Today, mainstream reporting is all breathless and huffy and rude and repetitive and incessantly in-your-face ... like the teen-ager that just discovered sex and pines for more!

I've written about what used to be the standard for writing news stories - with examples of how adding simple adjectives can color a report. I built a story around five simple facts - who, what, when, where and why - and gave examples of how the story could be reported.

And, not long ago, I wrote a piece on how the news media can create career-ending national headlines from an innocent remark.

Hopefully, my readers have gained some insight, not only into how a professional news reporter can deliver the goods fully documented and interesting, but also how today's media has chosen to accept undocumented sensationalism as news.

I've got to agree with Klavan. It's the CNN Two-step!

*Important note for elders: The National Park Service says the effective date for an 800% increase in the price of a lifetime Senior Pass has been set for August 28, not October 1 as previously announced.*

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## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Thursday, July 20, 2017**

### *Single-Payer Healthcare*

This week, I made the following Healthcare proposition to Chuck Schumer, Jeff Flake, Bernie Sanders and other leaders in the US Congress. It's slightly different from earlier suggestions.

Make Medicare the Universal (Single-Payer) Healthcare System and allow the Insurance Industry to continue providing Supplemental Coverage competitively as it does now.

The only real change would be to make Part "A" free at birth.

Part "B" would be available to everyone with a modest monthly premium that could be subsidized with current Medicaid funding.

Medicaid would be discontinued, replaced by Medicare.

Parts "C" "D" "F" "G" "K" "L" "M" & "N" Supplements would continue to be available across state lines, but with no age or pre-existing condition restrictions.

Making age and condition inclusive across the board makes it possible to create a single national risk pool.

Pay for Part "A" and subsidize Part "B" with changes to payroll deductions: Eliminate the earnings ceiling completely; increase employee and employer contributions by 50% from current combined 15.3% to 22.95%. The Social Security contribution would increase to a combined 3.00% and the

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Medicare contribution would increase to 19.95% - 9.95% paid by the employee and 10.00% by the employer. Individuals and businesses could still opt for other Insurance, except all policies would require competition across state lines with no age or pre-existing condition limits.

This is something both parties can agree on because it combines everything they want:

- Single-payer base
- Elimination of Medicaid (to provide subsidies for Part A to all)
- No age or pre-existing condition limits
- Basic Medicare Part A remains subsidized by payroll deductions
- Part A cradle-to-grave catastrophic coverage
- Part B is supported by affordable premiums
- Premium subsidies available for Part B
- Basic health insurance pays 80%.
- Supplements can pay up to remaining 20% as they do now
- Insurance market competition for Supplements
- Option to choose Private coverage
- National Risk Pool

Except for establishing the payroll deduction rates, age and pre-existing condition restrictions, the range of subsidies and a national risk pool, details of this plan should be relatively simple to negotiate on a bi-partisan basis because all the pieces are already in place.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, July 27, 2017**

Forget Cloture!

The Democrats in the Senate have been doing everything they can think of to delay or obstruct the legislative process - mostly by invoking Rule 22 or cloture, the Senate rule that requires the approval of a three-fifths majority before allowing any bill on the floor for a vote.

**Wikipedia** reads, "The Standing Rules of the Senate are the parliamentary procedures adopted by the United States Senate that govern its procedure. The Senate's power to establish rules derives from Article One, Section 5 of the United States *Constitution*: 'Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings ...'"

The **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** defines cloture as "the closing or limitation of debate in a legislative body especially by calling for a vote." But there is much more to it in the US Senate.

A January article in **The Hill** reads in part, "In 2013, Democrats in the Senate altered the filibuster rules, lowering the number of senators needed to confirm presidential nominees from 60 to a simple majority of 51. Supreme Court nominations were excluded from the change."

According to **West Wing Reads**, the **Wall Street Journal's** Editorial Board called out Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** and how he is "abusing Senate rules to undermine the executive branch." Senate Democrats are demanding a so-called cloture vote for nearly all of President Trump's nominees to the executive branch, meaning each confirmation requires a two-day waiting period and then another 30 hours of debate. By evoking this rule, the Journal estimates, the

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President “might not be able to fill all of those 400 positions in four years.” The Democratic tactic is also holding up the GOP’s legislative agenda, with Republicans having to cancel briefings on national security and a markup of two human-trafficking bills, the Journal reports.

When the Senate voted to eliminate cloture for Supreme Court candidates, Chuck Schumer railed that they were making a grievous error. The tactic had been dubbed the "nuclear option" because of its potential to blow up bipartisan relations in the Senate. Majority leader Mitch McConnell has resisted President Trump's urging that Rule 22 be eliminated. But the fact is the Democrat leadership is blowing up bipartisan relations without the nuclear option.

The Republican majority overcame the cloture rule by taking it off the table for approval of Supreme Court nominees - thus setting a precedent by requiring only a simple majority. There is nothing requiring cloture to do business so the Senate is free to make its own rules. It certainly appears to be time to eliminate cloture in the face of obstructionism.

Completely eliminating the cloture rule and its particulars would require a simple majority vote. Senate Republicans hold a 52 vote majority to the Democrats' 46 and Independents' two. When you stop to consider the enormous strides needed to fix the healthcare system, make America's tax system promote growth, and begin to upgrade the country's infrastructure, maybe it's time.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Saturday, July 29, 2017**

### *Misty About Misty*

There was no Monday July 24th column from me because of something that happened Sunday night in the Thayer household. Our cat died.



Misty was not just somebody's cat - she was our little girl kitty. She was 18 years and seven months old when she passed.

Misty and her brother were born on December 8, 1998 to the "house cat" at Samaritan Veterinary Center in Globe. Doctor Jeff Eubank keeps a free-roaming cat at the Veterinary Center so there is always an animal around as a blood transfusion donor, to keep the staff company and to make the animals temporarily housed there feel more at ease. Misty was one of a litter of four kitties, a male and female Tabby and a male and female Grey.

Claudette and I were looking for a cat to replace our three-legged Main Coon cat Tiger that had to be put down at age twenty-one because he got off his feed and couldn't eat or drink. (That's another story altogether.) At any rate, we visited with Doctor Eubank for a while and shared the story about Tiger and then he had one of his staffers show us the

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litter of kittens that was just being weaned. We tried to choose one of them, but whichever one it was left two of one color and one of the other. After a great deal of discussion we decided to take the little boy Tabby and the little girl Grey. We named them Misty and Murray; Misty was like coastal fog in the early evening and Murray was obviously Jewish!



At the ripe old age of ten Murray came down sick and had to be hand-fed baby-food with a syringe until he stabilized. Murray had contracted a disease similar to Aids, common in outdoor cats who play (or fight) with each other. Doctor Eubank said he would slowly loose weight and the time would come when he would be unable to feed or drink. He had to be put down at the ripe old age of 11 years and 363 days - just two days shy of his number twelve birthday - which is pretty good for a cat. His last days were not uncomfortable ... he just got so weak he couldn't get around to eat or drink. He was a good ol' guy.

Murray's little sister had her own pillow on our king-size bed, between ours where she slept. We were getting ready for bed just before 10pm when she got up to go get a drink of water. We were just getting in the sack when she jumped back up on the bed and threw up her water. Then she jumped down. Over the years she had hocked up any number of hair-balls and kitty crunchies so we were used to that part of cleaning up after cats. A little after 2am I had to get up to do my business

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

and take a pill. In the kitchen I noticed a little kitty poop. There were three more down the hall. I turned on the hall light and there was Misty curled up next to the pocket door to the bedroom. I stooped down and petted her but she didn't move. I tried to pick her up but she was stiff from rigor - she was gone. Apparently, she was just finishing her water when cardiac arrest began. Without making a sound Misty made her way down the hall in pain, jumped up on the bed and threw up, jumped down and made it to the doorway before she collapsed. Claudette said she thought she heard a bump in the doorway, but living in a rural area we were used to such noises in the night and thought nothing of it. There was nothing either of us could have done.



Monday was spent putting Misty in a pillow case, packing her in plastic, digging a proper grave next to her brother out in the back yard, saying goodbye, filling up the grave and placing a matching marker on it. That's why I didn't send a Monday email broadcast.

Very coincidentally, our neighbor had asked - the week before - if we could take care of his yellow and white tiger-striped cat named Cinnamon. He was going to be out of town a lot, learning a new profession, and needed somebody to care for him. Cinnamon didn't fill the void Misty left, but he imprinted very quickly. It made losing her just a little bit easier. But, we're still misty over Misty.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, July 31, 2017**

My hero Larry King

One of the greatest interviewers of all time is Larry King. It's beyond my understanding why today's television news people haven't learned the great lessons Larry taught.

#1: SHUT UP. Without a doubt, the best interviews are done by the best listeners. Walter Cronkite wasn't one for asking questions. He'd make a statement and then sit quietly while his subject talked about it. You got the idea that maybe he knew something, but that his subject knew a lot more. Cronkite was known as "the most trusted man in America." He interviewed John F Kennedy for the first half-hour broadcast of the CBS Evening News on September 3rd, 1963. Cronkite interviewed President Lyndon Johnson, just days after after J F K was murdered on November 22nd .

#2: LISTEN. The most famous listener had to have been Larry King. He hosted Larry King Live for 25 years on CNN - June 3rd, 1985 to December 16th, 2010. King had a habit of resting his chin on his hand as he listened. He always seemed fascinated by the folks he interviewed. It was his style to ask very broad questions and then sit back and listen intently. In his long career he interviewed some 30,000 people including nine Presidents - Lyndon Johnson, Rickard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H W Bush, Bill Clinton, George W Bush and Barack Obama.

#3: LEARN. Since the early days of television, writers have presented copies of their books to their interviewers. While Larry King would shamelessly hawk a book for his guest, he seldom read the thing because he found the writer vastly more interesting. He'd hold up the book so viewers could see it and

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say something like, "So you wrote this book. Tell me about it." When his guest paused for a second, instead of asking a question, he'd just sit quietly and after a few seconds the guest would talk some more. On many occasions Tonight Show host Johnny Carson would confess that he had not read his guest's book. Jack Paar hosted the Tonight Show from 1957 to 1962. He, too, was a master of the interview. He'd ask a question and then, with his elbows on his desk, cradle his chin in both palms as he listened to the response. King, Carson and Parr were masters of the interview. Each of them learned new things every night along with their audiences because they were great listeners.

One of the reasons Johnny Carson was such a hit was that, like Larry King, he let his guests talk. He was a good comedian and an accomplished magician, but he was also one of the best listeners of all time. He'd introduce someone like Norm Crosby, who would go onstage and do his schtick, and then be invited to have a seat on the couch. That's when Carson would hit him with, "So, I heard you had to go to Court the other day ..." Crosby would take it from there with, "When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty." Crosby played with words like, "... a skinny dog looks emancipated." Unlike Morton Downey Jr, Merv Griffin or Geraldo Rivera, Johnny Carson never interrupted or talked over his guests. Neither did Larry King nor Jack Paar. In fact, each of those three played the perfect shill for their guests.

These days all you hear - especially on cable tv - are demonstrably intelligent people showing their stupidity by interrupting or talking over both the host and other guests. Cable hosts apparently don't understand why they should not allow that kind of behavior. Co-hosts are just as guilty and spread their fair share of rudeness. The thing is ... a bunch of

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people talking (or shouting) at the same time is just noise and drives viewers (and listeners) away.

In my radio days - many moons ago - I did the news and a daily one-hour talk show. Anyone could call in and there were usually two callers waiting to go on the air. When the time came, I'd pick up the line and say, "Who is this and what's on your mind?" Usually, the caller would prattle on for a minute or so and then pause. I'd been listening and asked another question about the subject at hand. That usually did the trick and I'd say, "Hey, thanks for calling - see ya text time. [click] So who are you and what would you like to talk about today?" I'd give an answer or comment if someone asked, but it worked better if I could ask a question that would point to the answer. A lot of the callers wanted to complain about stuff or were looking for help with getting something done ... like Jury Duty or getting the drug dealer next door to leave town or how to grow humungous tomatoes. The show was taped so I could use things the callers said on the news.

I remember interviewing Arizona District One Congressman J D Hayworth - he was always good for a couple of lines on the news. Members of the Canyon Water District were trying to get help with federal funding for a water main. Hayworth had committed to follow up on his predecessor's work. Karen English had obtained help from President Kennedy and the House Bill authorizing funding for the grant was almost wrapped up when she lost her job to the Phoenix sportscaster. I always tried to not ask questions to which I didn't already have the answer ... so, I asked Hayworth how the grant for the Canyon Water District was coming. J D talked like Claghorn Foghorn the rooster, "Ah say, ah say, son ..." and he lied through his teeth for about two minutes. I knew neither he nor his people had done anything to get the authorization Bill to the floor of the House. He was no sooner off the 'phone than



### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Bob McCusic, co-chair of the Water District board, was on the line. He asked, "Did you hear that? He lied, Ted. Nobody has done anything to get that bill on the floor!" Two great sound-bites back to back and all I had to do was listen. I learned that skill from watching Larry King.

The thing about listening is you always learn stuff. For example: Gila County Manager Steve Besich once said that I knew more about Gila County government than anybody else because I always listened and they could always count on me to keep information in confidence. All of the elected officials trusted Terrible Ted and constantly shared information. Over the years, a number of them became good friends. Those Gila County connections provided me with all sorts of background information, making it easy when it came to writing news stories. Other news people in the area recorded my newscasts because they knew I got the story straight from the horse's mouth. That reputation only came about because of Larry King. My hero.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, August 3, 2017**

About Karan English

A friend who gets The Wild Bunch email sent me a note. In his own inimitable way he pointed out that **Karan English** couldn't have gotten help from **President** Kennedy. I screwed up, troops! (NO!) It had to have been **Senator** Teddy Kennedy. I have no idea how a House member from Arizona got help from a Senator from Massachusetts. Funny, I distinctly remember her telling me in a radio interview **President** Kennedy - she must have been stressed and just blurted it out. BTW: Karen English is an author. Karan English was a one-term Arizona District One Congresswoman from 1993 to 1995.

On another note: My appologies to the McKusick clan. Bob was a good friend and fellow Rotarian - how I misspelled his name is a head-scratcher. Even the best of the Spell-checkers just don't catch that sort of stuff, do they!

So here's the correct paragraph - thanks to Freddy.

I remember interviewing Arizona District One Congressman J D Hayworth - he was always good for a couple of lines on the news. Members of the Canyon Water District were trying to get help with federal funding for a water main. Hayworth had committed to follow up on his predecessor's work. **Karan English** had obtained help from **Senator Kennedy** and the House Bill authorizing funding for the grant was almost wrapped up when she lost her job to the Phoenix sportscaster. I always tried to not ask questions to which I didn't already have the answer ... so, I asked Hayworth how the grant for the Canyon Water District was coming. J D talked like Claghorn Foghorn the rooster, "Ah say, ah say, son ..." and he lied

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through his teeth for about two minutes. I knew neither he nor his people had done anything to get the authorization Bill to the floor of the House. He was no sooner off the 'phone than ***Bob McKusick***, co-chair of the Water District board, was on the line. He asked, "Did you hear that? He lied, Ted. Nobody has done anything to get that bill on the floor!" Two great sound-bites back to back and all I had to do was listen. I learned that skill from watching Larry King.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, August 3, 2017**

*Thank You for Your Service*

In my book ¿**Quién Sabe?** the story goes, "I stopped by the Country Club the other day to say howdy and get a cup of ice to go with my Gatorade - I like it over ice because it's too flavorful for me without the dilution provided by the ice. Even though my dentist absolutely hates it, I like crunching the ice, too.

"School was out for the summer and there were kids hanging out at the swimming pool and in every other nook and cranny of the facility. One youngster was lounging on the floor of the entry, rolling around on his leopard colored beach towel. I recall fondly those days of summer. Great to be a kid!

"I went into the meeting room where the coffee-maker, iced tea, condiments and ice were kept on a table on a short wall. I was decked out in my summer gear: tennies, long pants, polo shirt and baseball cap. I have a Marine Corps cap that I wear a lot and it was part of my garb for the day.

"Having obtained my cupful of ice, I headed for the entry, where the boy who had been lounging on the floor accosted me. He appeared to be about nine. He had spotted the Marine logo and mascot Chesty on my hat. What happened next just absolutely floored me.

"Seemingly in passing, the youngster asked if I had been in the Marine Corps. I answered, "Yes, sir." When or where he picked up what he said next will remain a mystery to me. It made my heart swell with pride to be an American who, thank God, never saw live fire during the Viet Nam era - and

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yet, was still confronted with the respect of a little boy just hanging out at the Country Club.

"Thank you for your service, sir."

Seems like every day anymore, my old Marine Corps ears hear those comforting words, "Thank you for your service." In the last decade or so, it's become some kind of a tradition across America to thank people who put their lives on the line to protect their countrymen.

Those who never signed on the dotted line still don't truly understand the oath members of the Armed Forces take when they sign on the bottom line: "I ... solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

To become a Marine an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 17 years old at time of enlistment
- Must not have reached 29th birthday upon start of recruit training
- Must provide proof of legal residency
- Must pass a physical examination
- Must have a high school diploma
- Must attend and graduate recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island or Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego

Anybody who thinks they signed up for four years with The Marine Corps is sorely mistaken. Paragraph ten of the Enlistment Contract provides that all Marines are committed to eight years of active, reserve and inactive duty combined.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

That means after serving any number of years of Active Duty, a Marine can be called up from Inactive Duty to serve in the Reserves or from Reserves to Active Duty (as happened during the Cuban Missile crisis in October of 1962.) The difference between the rest of the Armed Forces and The Corps ... every Marine signed his life over to the Corps - not for some piddly-ass eight years - for LIFE! That's why once a Marine, Always a Marine.

"Thank you for your service" doesn't just apply to people who have served their country in the Marine Corps. It also applies to all current and past service men and women as well as all of America's First Responders - the Police, Sheriff's Deputies, State Police, Corrections Officers, Firemen, EMTs, the Forest Service, the Border Patrol, ICE, the FBI, the Secret Service, the NSA and the CIA. Anyone who puts their life on the line to protect Americans deserves heart-felt thanks. And they're getting that from grateful Americans.

There is no amount of pay that can equal those five simple words. Next time you run across someone in uniform, offer your handshake, pat a shoulder, offer a hug, or snap a salute and proclaim, "Thank you for your service."

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, August 7, 2017**

### *The High Court's Ruse*

Early this year the President issued an Executive Order declaring a 90 day moratorium on travel by un-vetted nationals from seven middle-eastern countries. The order was to allow time to fully vet individuals from those countries, providing at least some protection from would-be terrorists trying to sneak onto US soil undetected.

The Order was immediately challenged by liberal Attorneys General in five states, including Hawaii and at least 17 Florida chapters of the **ACLU**. According to **The Hill**: in early February, **U.S. District Judge James Robart** issued an order blocking the first version of the ban, which applied [to] visitors from seven Muslim-majority countries and all immigrants. Robart's ruling was upheld by the **9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals**, leading the Trump administration to issue [a] new order ... The new ban blocked citizens of six Muslim-majority countries: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Iraqi citizens, covered by the initial ban, would be allowed to travel to the United States under the new order. New York Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**, Oregon Attorney General **Ellen Rosenblum** and Massachusetts Attorney General **Maura Healey** joined Washington in challenging the new ban along with Hawaii Attorney **General Doug Chin** and Florida chapters of the **ACLU**.

Early in June the Ninth Circuit upheld blocks on the Trump Travel Ban but was overturned by the **US Supreme Court** on June 26th. The court ruled that Trump's ban on visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen can be enforced if those visitors lack a "credible claim of a bona fide

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relationship with a person or entity in the United States.” The High Court also declared it would hear arguments on the issue when the Justices return from summer recess.

On June 13th U.S. District Judge **Derrick Watson** of Hawaii ordered the U.S. not to enforce the travel ban on grandparents, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins of people in the U.S. The White House had previously said the ban would not apply to citizens of six countries with a parent, spouse, fiancé, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, or sibling already in the U.S.

The travel ban remains in effect for only 90 days. It resumed Thursday, June 29th. That means it will expire on Friday, September 29th, the end of the week before the High Court begins its fall 2017 term. Inasmuch as the 90 day Order will have expired by October 2nd, arguments about it before the High Court would be moot, although there will remain the 120 day ban on refugees.

That a majority of the SCOTUS would support such a ruse as hearings in October gives us a glimpse of future rulings of the now conservative-leaning court. Or, is it possible they just played a practical joke on the ACLU and those State Attorneys General?

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, August 10, 2017**

*Medicare is the answer*

Regular folks can't afford the Affordable Care Act, while those with less than average income are subsidized by funds from government. That funding comes from the pockets of the majority of average Americans, who simply can't afford the benefits of the ACA. Those who don't subscribe to the ACA are penalized further with patently unfair fines imposed by the Internal Revenue Service. The so-called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act "Death Spiral" is affecting middle-income Americans adversely while the less fortunate among us remain un-touched.

The only way to save "ObamaCare" is to subsidize "average" Americans who make less than the Census Bureau defined median income of \$30,240 per year. That simply can't happen without bankrupting the country or cutting benefits to everyone (and thus costs) across the board.

A few weeks ago I offered a suggestion defining a way we could ensure the health of citizens of the United States without bankrupting the country. So far, though, nobody in Congress has replied to my overtures.

It's as plain as the nose on your face: **Make Medicare the National Healthcare System.** This, in essence, should be embraced by Congressional Democrats because it meets most of the criteria for a "Single-payer" system. At the same time, it satisfies the Republican requirement that the program pays for itself ... is, in other words, "revenue neutral."

Anybody who has reached 65 years of age and worked at least 30 quarters (7 ½ years) qualifies for free Medicare Part

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A. Under 30 quarters of employment requires a monthly premium up to \$413 for coverage. Once a participant has Part A, Medicare Part B is obtained by modest deductions from participants' Social Security payments. Between the two parts, something on the order of 80% of medical costs are covered. The American Insurance Industry is already providing many choices of Supplemental Coverage to take up the slack. And, there is no reason that private Insurance shouldn't remain available for individuals and businesses.

The question is **how do we fund a Single-payer National Medicare System?**

First, **how does it work?**

- Make Part "A" free from birth to age 21. Sliding scale premiums (or payroll deductions) would commence at age 21 until 30 quarters of employment have been attained.
- Make Part "B" available to everyone between the ages 21 and 65 with payment of a modest monthly premium or payroll deduction.
- Eliminate Medicaid and use that funding to subsidize parts A & B for minors and part B for those 21 to 65. At age 21 the amount of the subsidy, if any, should be in proportion to the insured 's ability to produce income.
- Parts "C" "D" "F" "G" "K" "L" "M" & "N" Supplements would be provided by America's Insurance Industry across state lines with no age or pre-existing condition restrictions.
- Eliminating age and pre-existing conditions across the board makes it possible to create a single national risk pool.

Now, **how do we pay for it?**

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

- Eliminate the earnings ceiling completely from payroll taxes.
- Increase employee and employer contributions from the combined 15.3% to 22.95%.
- Increase the Social Security contribution to a combined 3.00%.
- Increase the Medicare employee contribution to 9.95%, employer contribution to 10.00%.

How do we institute **National Medicare System (NMS)** coverage for all Americans?

- Over a twelve month period commencing ninety days after the date signed into law, Medicaid recipients are enrolled in the National Medicare System (NMS)
- As recipients change to NMS and are dropped from the Medicaid rolls, states return unused Medicaid funds monthly to the US Treasury.
- Social Security Offices and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have 90 days from the date signed into law to employ and train sufficient personnel to handle enrollment
- Recipients aged new-born to 21 are registered over the twelve-month period, subsidies are determined and policies are issued through Social Security Offices in concert with CMMS
- ACA participants are enrolled in NMS during the same twelve month period, dropped from ACA rolls, subsidies are determined and policies are issued
- Current Medicare recipients are automatically covered under NMS on Part A anniversaries and revised Identification cards are issued - Medicare cards are accepted ID until replaced
- As with Medicare Parts A & B, NMS policies are issued under the Social Security Number of the recipient (ie: 123-45-6789A)

### Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

- Recipients covered by existing Medicare Supplemental Insurance obtain continuing coverage from their insurers on the anniversary date of their Supplemental Policy
- Unless Congress determines differently, MNS will not apply to VA services

This is **something everybody can agree on.**

- Single-payer base
- Elimination of Medicaid (to pay for subsidies)
- No age or pre-existing condition limits
- Basic Medicare Part A remains subsidized by payroll deductions
- Part A cradle-to-grave catastrophic coverage for qualified subscribers
- Part B supported by affordable premiums
- Premium subsidies available for Parts A & B
- Combined Parts A & B pay 80% of medical expenses
- Supplements pay up to remaining 20% as they do now
- Insurers compete across state lines (nation-wide) for Supplements
- Option to choose Private coverage without penalty
- National Risk Pool

Except for modifying payroll deduction rates, abolishing age and pre-existing condition restrictions, determining distribution of un-used Medicaid funds, defining the range of subsidies and establishing a national risk pool, details of this plan should be relatively simple to negotiate on a bi-partisan basis because the vast majority of the pieces are already in place.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, August 14, 2017**

Pro-life or Pro-choice?

Not long ago Republicans adopted the idea that life begins at conception and should not be aborted, but rather celebrated. The Democrat Party, on the other hand, made it a plank in its political platform that women have the right to choose whether to keep or abort a fetus.

**Wikipedia** tells us, "The United States pro-life movement formed as a response to the landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* Supreme Court decisions, with many pro-life organizations having emerged since then. ... The initial movement was led by physicians, but also included politicians and feminists. ... According to some beliefs, human life begins before birth (i.e., at fertilization, when the genetic material which will develop into a fetus first assumes zygote form and acquires unique DNA), and many feel that human life is valuable and worthy of protection at all stages. This view is heavily influenced by religious belief in many, but not all cases. There is significant philosophical debate regarding whether human embryos acquire personhood and human rights upon genetic formation or upon fetal viability."

The right to abort comes with a few caveats, but has generally been upheld by the US Supreme Court as a result of the long-standing *Roe v. Wade* decision, which pro-life advocates have fought tooth and nail for decades. Continual filing of lawsuits on the issue, peaceful as well as violent demonstrations, bombings and outright murder have resulted from the movement's zeal to halt the business of abortion at all cost.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Over the years the opinion of the electorate on this issue has changed. Democrats were once avid pro-lifers and it came with the territory. The pro-life movement has been alive and well for decades protesting abortion clinics and the laws that have allowed them to proliferate. For a long time, the more conservative Republicans felt that it was not the business of government to regulate how women viewed pending child-birth. The harshest condemnation from Republicans back in the day was that men had no business telling women what to do with their bodies.

Historian **Daniel K Williams** writes in his book *Defenders of the Unborn\**, "The pro-life movement that we have always labeled 'conservative' was at one time much more deeply rooted in the liberal rights-based values than we might have suspected." Eight or ten years ago, the moral compass changed the way it pointed. All of a sudden the Democrats were all-in for choice and the Republicans were all-in for life. According to **Mary Rezac** in an April 12, 2016 **Catholic News Agency** article, "**Kristen Day**, executive director of **Democrats for Life** and author of *Democrats For Life: Pro-Life Politics and the Silenced Majority*, said [of the 2006 and 2008 national elections], 'We were looking at candidates who were best for the district, who met the district needs, and we elected a bunch of pro-life Democrats and took back the house. ... It looked like we were coming back and we were an inclusive party again.' But the Affordable Care Act and the so-called 'War on Women' of 2010 brought the party back to a more extreme leftist stance, Day said."

Southern Baptist leader **Russell Moore** said in an interview last year, "I wish we were in a situation where we had two pro-life parties. I started my career working for a pro-life Democratic congressperson, and he was pro-life, pro-family. That world doesn't exist anymore."

### Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

I recall almost twenty-five years ago having breakfast with a bunch of friends, as we did every Saturday morning at a local restaurant, betting on ball-games and the lottery and talking politics. One of the subjects that came up for discussion that morning was abortion. Most of my friends at the table were Democrats and Catholic and they were adamant that it was wrong to terminate a life ... it was against the teachings of The Church. In **Job 33:4** Jesus makes it clear, "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life." And **Psalms 127:3** says, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." Being a good Republican, I understood their feelings as well as biblical teachings on the matter. I endorsed the conservative line that what a woman does with her body is not the business of a bunch of old geezers ensconced in the United States' Congress or any other elected body, for that matter.

Why this remains such a highly-charged political issue, though, is a real head-scratcher. How the Republicans and Democrats switched their feelings on abortion is beyond me. Perhaps one reason the Democrats lost the November 8th election so badly was because many of America's Catholics either changed parties over the issue or abstained from voting and stayed home.

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, August 17, 2017**

*Who Was at fault?*

Last weekend, clashes between alt-left and alt-right groups over the pending removal of a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee from Emancipation Park in Charlottesville, Virginia resulted in three deaths and at least 34 injuries. Far-right White Supremacists, neo-Nazis, and members of the KKK were protesting the city's plan to remove the statue. Protesters and counter-protesters faced off in the street next to the park.

By midday Saturday, Virginia Governor **Terry McAuliffe** had declared a state of emergency and cancelled the “Unite the Right” rally that had been planned for noon.





## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

The counter-protesters included members of AntiFa, whose garb makes them easy to identify. Most far-left AntiFas wear black clothing and white plastic masks or black bandanas masking their faces. Their familiar garb has been seen prominently at violent disturbances elsewhere.



Thirty-two-year-old Heather Heyer was killed when a car driven by 20-year-old James Alex Fields Jr. of Maumee, Ohio crashed at high speed into a crowd of counter-protesters several blocks away from the protest. The pedestrians, directed by local police, were leaving the area when the car ran into them, injuring nineteen.



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Fields was arrested shortly after backing away from the carnage at the crash site. According to a CNN report, "Three other men were arrested Saturday. One of them faces a charge of carrying a concealed handgun and another is charged with disorderly conduct. The third man was arrested on suspicion of assault and battery." Two State Police officers assigned to the Governor were killed when their helicopter crashed after a flight to observe the protests from above the area. Authorities said a total of some 35 protesters were injured during clashes over the weekend.

At a press conference early on **President Trump** said, "We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence on many sides. On many sides." The President has taken heat all week from the mainstream media for not talking tough enough about the "hate groups" involved in the fighting near the park. At a news conference Tuesday he said, "You can call it terrorism, you can call it murder. You can call it whatever you want. The driver of the car is a murderer and what he did was a horrible, horrible, inexcusable thing."

In an interview with **MSNBC**, White House national security adviser **Sebastian Gorka** defended the President's reticence to blame one side or another early on, "There's a great rule: All initial reports are false. You have to check them. You have to find out who the perpetrators are. We've had a series of crimes committed - alleged hate crimes - by right-wing individuals in the last six months that turned out to actually have been propagated by the left."

Rally organizer **Jason Kessler** blamed law enforcement officers for the violence. And, when he tried to give a news conference at city hall Kessler was chased away by counterprotesters, who all but drowned him out as he tried to speak.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Charlottesville Police Chief **Al Thomas** told reporters Monday that many of the weekend confrontations were "mutually engaged attacks" fueled by "mutually combative individuals."

The FBI is on the ground in Charlottesville. According to **NPR** justice correspondent **Carrie Johnson**, "They're interviewing people who know [James Fields] from Ohio, witnesses on the scene in Virginia, reviewing some electronic evidence. They want to know what kind of planning or preparation may have been underway before Fields allegedly attacked. But this civil rights investigation is not limited to the driver. Authorities want to know - did he have any help? And there's been a show of force from the Justice Department. The FBI is involved - federal civil rights prosecutors and the U.S. attorney for the western district of Virginia, too."

The mainstream media played the "blame game" all week. Charlottesville Police were blamed for not stepping in to quell the fighting early. There were reports that the cops had been told to "stand down." The mayor was blamed for allowing the rally permit to be issued to known right-wing hatemongers in the first place, knowing that violent left-wing counter-protesters would surely show up.

The **Los Angeles Times** published a decent synopsis of the weekend's disturbances: "Saturday's violence involved political forces that have been building on the left and the right for years, as anti-racism activists and white-power advocates have battled each other - on the Internet and increasingly in the streets - over the meaning of the nation's traumatic racial history and its course for the future. ... Bloody street brawls broke out between dozens of anti-racism activists and far-right attendees, many of whom carried shields, weapons and Nazi and Confederate battle flags. One

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

woman was killed when a driver plowed a sports car into a crowd of protesters; he was arrested and charged with murder and other crimes. ... The original reason for [the] 'Unite the Right' rally was a battle over Charlottesville's ordered removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee. The statue is one of many Confederate symbols loathed by anti-racism advocates but embraced by many white Southerners, who see them as part of their heritage, as well as by white nationalists, who believe in a separate nation for white people. ... White nationalists in helmets, who were holding plastic shields, and anti-racism protesters, carrying red banners, could be seen skirmishing with each other on a city street ..."

Monday, on **CBS**, US Attorney General **Jeff Sessions** said, "We will not tolerate this kind of hatred and violence. We will not allow these extremist groups to obtain credibility. Morally, legally, they're unjustified in their actions and approach to American democracy. It cannot be countenanced."

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, August 21, 2017**

MSG & Salt?

Certain foods that I became enamored of in years-gone-by just don't appeal to me anymore. Not so long ago, I started talking about this phenomena with my wife, Claudette. It seemed that the food world had changed and left us in the dust. Somehow, I think that may be true, facilitated by the FDA, USDA and so-called medical "experts."

**USDA** (FSIS Compliance) documents address allergens in part as follows:

"Establishments are required to declare all ingredients on the [food] label. While the 'Big Eight' allergens\* are the most common allergenic foods, people may have adverse reactions to other substances as well. Consumption of some ingredients, such as sulfur-based preservatives (sulfites), lactose, FD&C Yellow 5 (Tartrazine), gluten, and monosodium glutamate (MSG), may result in an adverse reaction in certain susceptible individuals, yet they are not considered allergens."

An article on **Mercola.com** states,

"You may remember when the MSG powder called 'Accent' first hit the U.S. market. Well, it was many decades prior to this, in 1908, that monosodium glutamate was invented. The inventor was Kikunae Ikeda, a Japanese man who identified the natural flavor enhancing substance of seaweed.

"Taking a hint from this substance, they were able to create the man-made additive MSG, and he and a partner went on to form Ajinomoto, which is now the

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world's largest producer of MSG (and interestingly also a drug manufacturer).

"Chemically speaking, MSG is approximately 78 percent free glutamic acid, 21 percent sodium, and up to 1 percent contaminants.

"It's a misconception that MSG is a flavor or 'meat tenderizer.' In reality, MSG has very little taste at all, yet when you eat MSG, you think the food you're eating has more protein and tastes better. It does this by tricking your tongue, using a little-known fifth basic taste: umami. [NOT yo mama - umami!]

"Umami is the taste of glutamate, which is a savory flavor found in many Japanese foods, bacon and also in the toxic food additive MSG. It is because of umami that foods with MSG taste heartier, more robust and generally better to a lot of people than foods without it.

"The ingredient didn't become widespread in the United States until after World War II, when the U.S. military realized Japanese rations were much tastier than the U.S. versions because of MSG."

According to the **Mayo Clinic**,

"Monosodium glutamate (MSG) is a flavor enhancer commonly added to Chinese food, canned vegetables, soups and processed meats. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has classified MSG as a food ingredient that's 'generally recognized as safe, but its use remains controversial. MSG has been used as a food additive for decades. Over the years, the FDA has received many anecdotal reports of adverse reactions to foods containing MSG. However, researchers have found no definitive evidence of a link between MSG and allergic symptoms.

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Researchers acknowledge, though, that a small percentage of people may have short-term reactions to MSG. Symptoms are usually mild and don't require treatment. The only way to prevent a reaction is to avoid foods containing MSG."

Food manufacturers who used to include MSG in their products were scared off by all this mumbo-jumbo and more than likely removed MSG from their formulae. This may be one reason why chicken pot pies don't taste as well as they used to ...

And then there was the world's best flavor-enhancer and preservative - sodium chloride - salt. Way back a gazillion years ago, humans discovered that they could dry and preserve perishable foods like fish using salt.

The **National Academy of Sciences**, under the auspices of the **USDA**, published this in 2010:

"In 1969, the **White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health** issued recommendations that, among other important nutrition concerns, highlighted the role of sodium in hypertension and marked the starting point of public health initiatives to address the high levels of sodium intake among the U.S. population. Forty years later, in January 2009, the first meeting of the **Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake** convened. In the intervening years, much had changed - what we eat, where we eat, and who prepares our food. However, in spite of the attempts of many in both the public health community and the food industry, what did not change is the amount of sodium we consume each day, largely in the form of salt. High sodium intake puts the whole population - young

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and old, male and female, all ethnic groups - at risk for hypertension and subsequent cardiovascular events such as heart failure and stroke.

"Activities to reduce sodium intake of the U.S. population have been ongoing for more than 40 years, but they have not succeeded. In retrospect, these activities were insufficient in the face of the nature of the public health problem they were meant to address. Without an overall reduction of the level of sodium in the food supply - that is, the level of sodium to which consumers are exposed on a daily basis from processed and restaurant foods - the current focus on instructing consumers to select lower-sodium foods and making available reduced-sodium 'niche' products cannot result in intakes consistent with the **Dietary Guidelines for Americans**.

"The starting point for use of the available regulatory tools is the conclusion first voiced in 1979 that salt - given the levels at which it is currently added to the food supply - is no longer a substance for which there is a reasonable certainty of no harm."

In conclusion ... it appears that American manufacturers have reduced the use of both MSG and salt as flavor-enhancers over the last decade, at least. There is NO MSG and the very LAST item in the ingredients - meaning the LEAST quantity by weight - on my Banquet® Chicken Pot Pie label is SALT. That probably accounts for why my Banquet® Chicken Pot Pie no longer tastes like a chicken pot pie!

The question is: What special ingredients did my "greatest generation" mama use to make *her* chicken pot pies so delicious in the '40s, '50s and '60s? MSG and Salt?



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

\* The "Big Eight" allergens

- 1 Wheat
- 2 Crustacean shellfish (Shrimp, Crabs, etc.)
- 3 Eggs
- 4 Fish
- 5 Peanuts
- 6 Milk
- 7 Tree nuts (almonds, pecans, walnuts)
- 8 Soybeans

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, August 24, 2017**

### Bernie's Medicare Bill

A little over a week ago Vermont Senator **Bernie Sanders** revealed that he would be submitting a Universal Healthcare Plan that would enhance Medicare to cover all Americans. According to a Monday, August 14, 2017 **Associated Press** story by **Lisa Rathke**:

"The Vermont independent visited the Franklin County Senior Center in St. Albans on Monday answering questions about health care, social security and President Donald Trump's budget before heading to an East Fairfield dairy farm to hear from several dairy farmers about the challenges facing the industry, as well their health care concerns.

"Well, we kept the affordable care act alive by the slimmest of margins. Some of us worked very, very hard on that,' said Sanders.

"He acknowledged that a '**Medicare for all**' bill likely won't pass in the Republican-controlled Congress and with Trump as president. But he said change takes time, and would involve organizing effectively in every state to make it happen.

"If we pass this thing, it's not going to be tomorrow, it would be the most significant step forward legislatively since I suspect the creation of Social Security in the 1930s. It's a big deal,' he said."

Confirming that a "Medicare for all" bill is forthcoming, Sen. Bernie Sanders appeared on the July 13th edition of **CNN's** *State of the Union*. "It seems like we're through" the Republican health-care debate, said host **Jake Tapper**, so "are you going to introduce single-payer?" "Absolutely, of

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

course we are," Sanders replied. "You know, we're tweaking the final points of the bill, and we're figuring out how we can mount a national campaign to bring people together." Sanders decried the United States' unique situation as a major country without state-guaranteed health care, labeling congressional Republicans' stalled plan "crazy."

Sanders claims that his 2017 bill will differ from the one he introduced in 2013. **HR-1782** was introduced on December 12th, 2013. From the bill, here is the synopsis created by the **Congressional Research Service**:

American Health Security Act of 2013 - Expresses the sense of the Senate concerning: (1) enactment of a Medicare-for-All Single Payer Health Care System; (2) recognition of health care as a human right; (3) state flexibility in designing health care programs; and (4) the goals of a new single-payer health care system, efficiencies through integrated care, and implementation of policies to ensure higher quality, better prevention, and lower per capita costs.

Establishes the State-Based American Health Security Program to provide every U.S. resident with health care services. Requires each participating state to establish a state health security program.

Eliminates benefits under: (1) titles XVIII (Medicare), XIX (Medicaid), and XXI (Children's Health Insurance) (CHIP, formerly known as SCHIP) of the Social Security Act; (2) the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; and (3) TRICARE.

Repeals provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) related to health insurance coverage, including provisions concerning state health insurance exchanges.

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Requires each state health security program to prohibit the sale of health insurance in that state that duplicates benefits provided under the program.

Establishes the American Health Security Standards Board to: (1) develop policies, procedures, guidelines and requirements to carry out this Act; (2) establish uniform reporting requirements and quality performance standards; (3) provide for an American Health Security Advisory Council; and (4) establish a national health security budget specifying the total federal and state expenditures to be made for covered health care services.

Establishes the Office of Primary Care and Prevention Research within the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Creates the American Health Security Trust Fund and appropriates to it specified tax liabilities and current health program receipts, including premium assistance credit amounts under PPACA.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to impose on individuals: (1) a health care income tax, and (2) an income tax surcharge on amounts of modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$1 million. Imposes an excise tax on securities transactions and allows an income tax credit for such taxes.

According to a July 18th article in **TheAtlantic**, "Democrats are far from united over single payer, however. For the moment at least, Democratic congressional leaders are reluctant to endorse single-payer legislation. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer has been non-committal when pressed by reporters on single payer. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has not signed onto the House 'Medicare-for-all' bill that has gained in popularity, though

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

she has expressed support for the concept, and argued that states could act as laboratories for single payer." To date, some 116 House co-sponsors have signed onto **HR-676**, the January 2017 bill originally sponsored by Michigan District 13 Representative **John Conyors, Jr.**

**Matt Bennett** of the center-left think tank **Third Way** said recently, "Single payer is a huge distraction from the enormously important task that Democrats have in front of them, which is defending Obamacare. And assuming that Republicans don't completely blow up the system, there's a lot that need to be done to shore it up. I think the fact that Pelosi and Schumer have stayed on the sidelines is very telling. That might be a signal that leadership does not want to head in this direction."

Here is the Synopsis from HR-676:

This bill establishes the Medicare for All Program to provide all individuals residing in the United States and U.S. territories with free health care that includes all medically necessary care, such as primary care and prevention, dietary and nutritional therapies, prescription drugs, emergency care, long-term care, mental health services, dental services, and vision care.

Only public or nonprofit institutions may participate. Nonprofit health maintenance organizations (HMOs) that deliver care in their own facilities may participate.

Patients may choose from participating physicians and institutions.

Health insurers may not sell health insurance that duplicates the benefits provided under this bill.

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Insurers may sell benefits that are not medically necessary, such as cosmetic surgery benefits.

The bill sets forth methods to pay institutional providers and health professionals for services. Financial incentives between HMOs and physicians based on utilization are prohibited.

The program is funded: (1) from existing sources of government revenues for health care, (2) by increasing personal income taxes on the top 5% of income earners, (3) by instituting a progressive excise tax on payroll and self-employment income, (4) by instituting a tax on unearned income, and (5) by instituting a tax on stock and bond transactions. Amounts that would have been appropriated for federal public health care programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), are transferred and appropriated to carry out this bill.

The program must give employment transition benefits and first priority in retraining and job placement to individuals whose jobs are eliminated due to reduced clerical and administrative work under this bill.

The Department of Health and Human Services must create a confidential electronic patient record system.

The bill establishes a National Board of Universal Quality and Access to provide advice on quality, access, and affordability.

The Indian Health Service must be integrated into the program after five years. Congress must evaluate the continued independence of Department of Veterans Affairs health programs.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

We'll have to wait a few weeks to see what Sanders' bill will look like in the Senate.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Saturday, August 26, 2017**

Arpaio ... Special Report

I met **Joe Arpaio** almost a quarter-century ago. I was on the radio at the time and had the privilege of interviewing all sorts of interesting folks. As is the custom with most interviewers, I was given a copy of his book *America's Toughest Sheriff*, published in 1996. He was running for Sheriff of Maricopa County Arizona again. He was upset in 2016 after a run of 24 years as the Head Dog at **MCSO**. It was a cool interview. The guy on TV is the same guy in person, the same in person on the street, the same guy I interviewed on the radio. He's the real deal.

Arpaio was tough on everybody. Rather than expand "storage" facilities to make room for an expanding jail population, he erected the now infamous "Tent City", reasoning that if our military can live in them in the deserts of the middle-east, so can the jail population. There was an uproar from inside and outside the Maricopa County Jail, so Arpaio made fun of it by issuing all those "sissies" pink underwear. And then, he offered pink underwear for sale to any of "those sissies who aren't living in Tent City ... yet!"

He ran afoul of the **Obama** administration when he signed an agreement with **ICE** that made MCSO Deputies essentially agents of ICE, qualified and empowered to arrest and detain immigrants in the country illegally. At about the same time, he began a series of "sweeps" of areas known to be where "illegals" hung out waiting for work and neighborhoods where many illegals were commonly known to be living. The sweeps were effective - so much so that a number of activist groups filed federal suits against MCSO and Arpaio, claiming that Latinos in Maricopa County were being "racially



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profiled" - an effective means of discovering individuals that fit the particular characteristics of illegal immigrants.

"Profiling" has been extremely effective in Israel, where the practice has prevented radical Islamic terrorists and Palestinian extremists from murdering scores of people. The idea is that if a person has the physical features of a suspect race, dresses a certain way - perhaps showing characteristic "colors", carries him/herself a particular way, is riding in a vehicle that meets certain criteria or has some minor traffic infraction (such as a broken tail-light or missing license-plate lamp), there is "probable cause" to stop and interview that person. The problem was that a federal court found that "racial profiling" was an unconstitutional means of identifying potential evil-doers. The Latino community was successful in getting the federal court in Phoenix to enjoin MCSO and Arpaio from alleged racial profiling as a means of making "sweeps" an effective way of rounding up illegals for ICE. Arpaio continued the sweeps and the complaints (and legal filings) increased along with demonstrations in the streets of Phoenix.

There is a lot more to the story, including charges of political motivation aimed at the Obama Justice Department, but suffice it to say that Sheriff Arpaio was found guilty of Contempt of Court and eventually sentenced to six months in jail. With appeals in the hopper, the 85-year-old former Sheriff was pardoned by President **Donald Trump**. The President made Arpaio's advanced years and lifetime of service to the people of the United States the proper reasons for the pardon.

Words from the Pardon granted by the President:

"Arpaio's life and career, which began at the age of 18 when he enlisted in the military after the outbreak of the Korean War, exemplify selfless public service.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

After serving in the Army, Arpaio became a police officer in Washington, D.C. and Las Vegas, NV and later served as a Special Agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), formerly the Bureau of Narcotics. After 25 years of admirable service, Arpaio went on to lead the DEA's branch in Arizona.

"In 1992, the problems facing his community pulled Arpaio out of retirement to return to law enforcement. He ran and won a campaign to become Sheriff of Maricopa County. Throughout his time as Sheriff, Arpaio continued his life's work of protecting the public from the scourges of crime and illegal immigration. Sheriff Joe Arpaio is now eighty-five years old, and after more than fifty years of admirable service to our Nation, he is worthy candidate for a Presidential pardon."

I worked for the Gila County Sheriff's Office for three-and-a-half years as a Detention Officer and I can tell you there are more less visible reasons to pardon Sheriff Joe. The conditions at the Gila County Jail are far from the best, but much better than the Maricopa County Jail. **GCSO** serves substantially better food than **MCSO**. Gila County treats its inmates more as individuals, whereas Maricopa County more-or-less "herds" its prisoners. Sheriff Joe would not be safe in the regular population - there are plenty of people who would want to kill him and more that would want to beat him on sight. His life would be in serious jeopardy in Phoenix as well as in Globe. That would require that he spend his six months in "AdSeg" ...

AdSeg - Administrative Segregation - known in many climes as "The Hole" is where an inmate is allowed out of his cell for one hour a day - alone - to take a shower and get a little exercise by walking around the day room. An inmate in

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

AdSeg gets one hour a week to be outside in the "yard" - by himself - alone - to get some fresh air and exercise. All of the rest of the inmate's time is spent locked down in a cell with a sheet-steel bunk, plastic-covered pillow and mattress with a sheet and a blanket, concrete walls with no windows and a stainless-steel combination wash-bowl and toilet. It's the most mind-numbing way to spend time, especially if there is no radio or television in the day-room.

I know two people here in the Globe-Miami area who spent a year in AdSeg at the Gila County Jail. Both were locked down while they waited for their cases to be adjudicated. Both have told me the conditions in prison were far better than they were in jail.

I firmly believe that Sheriff Joe would probably die if he was forced to spend six months in AdSeg, no matter where it was located. Further complicating this story is the fact that most inmates sentenced to less than a year, do their time in jail rather than prison. For that reason alone, I think the President did the right thing by pardoning Joe Arpaio.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Monday, August 28, 2017**

### **Can you Fly?**

For most of my life I have rejoiced in my ability to fly! Seriously. I have this ability to leave my surroundings and fly like some kind of bird! And I know there are people out in the ether that have the same ability. It's difficult to describe this experience to the profane. But, I'll try.

It started one night when I was about fourteen - a sophomore in High School. I was a member of the Monterey, CA High School Swim Team. I also did lifeguard duties when needed by private parties at the pool at Asilomar and at the Monterey Beach for the City Recreation Department.

Friends would accompany me on late-in-the-day summer jaunts to swim unsupervised at the High School pool. Because there was no easy way to enter through the gym, we had to climb some six or eight feet up a concrete wall on the north side of the pool and then descend some twelve feet to the cool-deck below. I don't remember accurately, but it seems like we figured out how to use our beach towels to get down. And, I remember thinking it would be cool to just jump and slow my fall by hovering. At any rate we boys would go swim for an hour or so before suppertime and then exit the pool area through a door to the outside in the concrete bleacher area at the west end of the pool.

The first time I ever flew was on a summer night after an over-the-wall swim. I had gone to bed and was beginning to doze off in that foggy twilight you get before sleep descends. Somehow, I made my way to the swimming pool, scaled the concrete wall and jumped off. Just as I had imagined, I was able to slow my descent by concentrating and holding my

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

hands out horizontally next to my hips. That soft landing was like stepping off a single stair. How cool! That got me to thinking ... could I push myself up off the cool-deck and into a hover, actually lifting off? Wow! I'm a little hazy here, but I think I just walked home.

They call this phenomenon *astral projection*. According to **Wikipedia**, "Astral projection (or astral travel) is a term used in esotericism to describe a willful out-of-body experience (OBE), a supposed form of telepathy, that assumes the existence of a soul or consciousness called an "astral body" that is separate from the physical body and capable of travelling outside of it..."

That summer I practiced my jump-starting at the pool and one evening finally succeeded in lifting off and hovering about two feet off the cool deck. What a trip! Actual levitation! The pool quickly became the mechanism for flight practice, rather than swimming. Eventually, I got over the trepidation of falling and made it up and over the wall. It was hairy, but I flew home.

Now, that was something! The view of Monterey's neighborhoods on a moonlit evening just above the treetops is nothing short of breath taking. Never having flown any significant distance before, it was difficult to keep track of where I was in relation to the walk home ... so I located the road I used on the way from school and followed it up the hill to my street to the left and onward to the back yard, where I quietly set down in the patio.

Maybe you're wondering how I held myself in flight. It wasn't like Superman with his cape flapping in the wind; not with one leg up like a can-opener and arms extended forward; rather, my legs followed along buoyed by the airflow and my hands seemed to be an extension of the force, pushing down

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

to rise, arms slanting forward, backwards or sideways for axial and lateral control, with the majority of the force centered on my armpits. Imagine doing push-ups on parallel bars in the sky. Sorta like getting up out of a La-Z-Boy Recliner. I hope that's vivid enough.

Eventually, I flew out to Seaside and Del Rey Oaks and even to Carmel and back, each time climbing a little higher in the sky. Initially, it wasn't a fast trip ... I worried about running into flying bugs, bats and birds, much less some itinerant airplane! After a while, flying became comfortable and seemed natural at around twenty-five miles an hour, a couple-of-hundred feet above the ground. It was fun!

There was a time when I was visiting a friend in his second-story bedroom. The window was open and another friend was standing on the lawn outside. He hollered at us to come out and play. My friend took the stairs and was outside when I slid onto the windowsill. Just had to try this thing in the daylight. Pressing down hard, I gritted my teeth and pushed off. It wasn't much different from dropping off the wall at the swimming pool. There was about a two-foot drop before I gained control and slowly eased down to the ground. My buddies were flabbergasted!

That's when I attempted a cold lift-off, rising up and landing on one of the branches in the big oak in my friend's front yard. There I was ... sitting in a tree about ten feet off the ground ... wondering if I could repeat what I did out the window. Yep. Pulled it off, and the guys were totally jazzed! They wanted to know how to do it and I showed them, but neither one of them could get airborne. We agreed to never tell anyone about this incident, even in confidence ... because nobody would believe it anyway. (At this point in time, it appears that I lied!)

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Since those days so long ago, I've flown regularly, almost always in the late afternoon or evening and sometimes late at night when there is adequate moonlight. I found a railroad grade in the mountains nearby ... it's a refreshing flight, following the tracks. My astral sorties are always joyful, breath taking - not scary, but fun and relaxing.

One thing: I wouldn't recommend jumping off some high place to try this. If you actually want to fly via astral projection, try parallel bar push-ups in your mind as you enter the twilight before a nap or a good night's sleep. And, good luck to ya!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Thursday, August 31, 2017**

Do You Believe?

The country's mass media is in trouble. A majority of Americans don't trust what they see on TV or what they read in the papers. It's gotten so bad that the once "Fair and Balanced" Fox News is looking (and sounding) more like CNN and MSNBC every day.

I ran across this article from **Sharyl Attkisson** in **The Hill** Friday 08-18-2017:

"Trust in the mass media is at an all-time low. Two-thirds of Americans believe the mainstream press publishes fake news.

"Yes, there's still much good journalism to be found, if you know where to look. Yet, ask reporters who've been around a while, and many will tell you that a lot of good journalism is being left unpublished. Good journalists hate what's happening to the news.

"I think there are millions of people, particularly those who live outside of Washington, D.C., New York City and Los Angeles, who would like their news straight up: News that they don't have to discount because they're placing odds on the political and corporate interests of the reporters. Yet, we don't hear these desires because we're trapped in an echo chamber of our own creation. ... We fail to ask Is it true? Is it the whole story? Who wants you to think it and why? Are they trying to deflect attention from other facts or a more important story?

"Finding these answers is a basic part of our job."



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

As far back as September 14, 2016 the **Gallup Poll** had the pulse of America's voters. A Gallup graphic shows half the country trusted their news sources at the turn of the Century. From there, it was down hill for the least gullible among us.  
**D 53>51 I 53>38 R 47>14**

*Trust in Mass Media, by Party*

% Great deal/Fair amount of trust

■ Republicans ■ Independents ■ Democrats



GALLUP

By mid-May of this year, the **Harvard-Harris** poll found things not much better. According to a May 24th piece in **The Hill**:

"Nearly two-thirds of Americans say the mainstream press is full of fake news, a sentiment that is held by a majority of voters across the ideological spectrum.

"According to [the latest] Harvard-Harris poll, which was provided exclusively to The Hill, 65 percent of voters believe there is a lot of fake news in the mainstream media.

"That number includes 80 percent of Republicans, 60 percent of independents and 53 percent of Democrats. Eighty-four percent of voters said it is hard to know what news to believe online."

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Who can you trust when the August 19th "Free Speech" rally in Boston was carried live all day and nothing happened. Really! Fox News did all it could to gin up trouble. Instead of the podium, they showed foul language on placards carried by protesters. When they couldn't find violence between alt-right and alt-left protesters, they showed a woman carrying an American flag slugged in the chest by some punk who took the flag and threw it on the ground before running away into the crowd.

Fox never did air the Free Speech speakers. The most exciting action happened when a police line was pushing protesters away from possible danger. Some idiot thought it was cool to wade into them screaming epithets - he was grabbed and unceremoniously dumped into the back of a police van. The fact is ... Boston authorities stopped the original protest and sent the participants packing when the crowd of counter-protesters marching toward Boston Common was several times larger than expected. The original crowd size was estimated at 30,000 peaceful protesters and 100 counter-protesters, predominantly Antifas. In all, some 50,000 people participated.

According to **Boston.com**, "Police Commissioner **William Evans** seemed pleased with the day's events [at the Free Speech rally]... As of the day's press conference, police had made 27 arrests, mostly for disorderly conduct ... according to Evans. ... No serious injuries or significant property damage occurred. ... Evans didn't attribute the bad behavior to rally-goers or counter-protesters, but rather a third group. 'Obviously I wish the troublemakers stayed away ... They weren't here for either side. They were here just to cause problems.' Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said 'I think it's clear today that Boston stood for peace and love, not bigotry and hate.'"

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

A grand-total of 33 people were detained by police during the day-long event. Viewers were left hanging all day before the formerly breathless commentators aired the news that there was none.

You just don't know who to believe anymore, .

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, September 04, 2017**

*Bring Me Those Levis!*

Back in the day - my dad would take me and my brother to a clothing store in downtown Monterey, California where we would load up on back-to-school clothes. We got everything we'd be needing ... at least 'til Christmas. White underpants and t-shirts, shoes and socks, dress and casual shirts, slacks, corduroy pants and Levis. Levis? Yes! Those were the pants of choice for school and after-school. When the Levis went in the wash, "cords" were what to wear.

The thing about Levis was you could wear them for weeks before your mom would demand they be washed. The trick was to wear the same pair of Levis until they'd stand up by themselves!

The guys in Auto Shop class set the standard by wearing a brand-new pair of Levis until they couldn't touch them without getting dirty. Usually, about that time, somebody's mom would have a hissy-fit and wash them. That just ruined a perfectly good pair of jeans. No longer were they Levis. They were no longer the right color. Where the cuff had been tucked under there was a very visible white or light blue line. (Yes, we tucked the cuff under on the central California coast in the '50s - not outside like the kids on the east coast.) That pair of Levis was completely ruined! Then, they were just jeans.

I didn't take Auto Shop but I was subjected to the same foul treatment by my mom when my Levis would finally stand in the corner by themselves. Fortunately, I was able to wear the same pair until Thanksgiving. Everything in the house had to be spotless for Thanksgiving, especially our clothing.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

I can hear it now, "Teddy! Teddy! Bring me your Levis."  
"Aw, mom, they're just broke in."

"Teddy! I need those pants right now!

"Aw, jeeze, mom."

"John Edward Thayer, you bring me those Levis right this minute. You don't want me to come after them, do you?"

Every year between Thanksgiving and Christmas I wore the cords or those pesky ruined jeans!

But then, somehow, just in the nick of time, Santa arrived with two pairs of brand-new Levis!

Those pretty much made it all the way 'til school was out at the end of May. About that time, nobody cared about wearing ruined Levis - after all it was Summer!

-0-

Speaking of Summer ... ours is just about over. It's Labor Day. Used to be our last day of school was the Thursday before Memorial Day - the last Monday in May. We got a full three months for Summer vacation ... June, July and all of August. Summer was a time for teachers to go to school - to their education - the Summer Semester was the way to earn a bigger raise in pay and increase their lock on tenure. And then, we all went back to school after Labor Day.

According to the **US Department of Labor**,

"Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

"Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states - Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York - created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

"More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

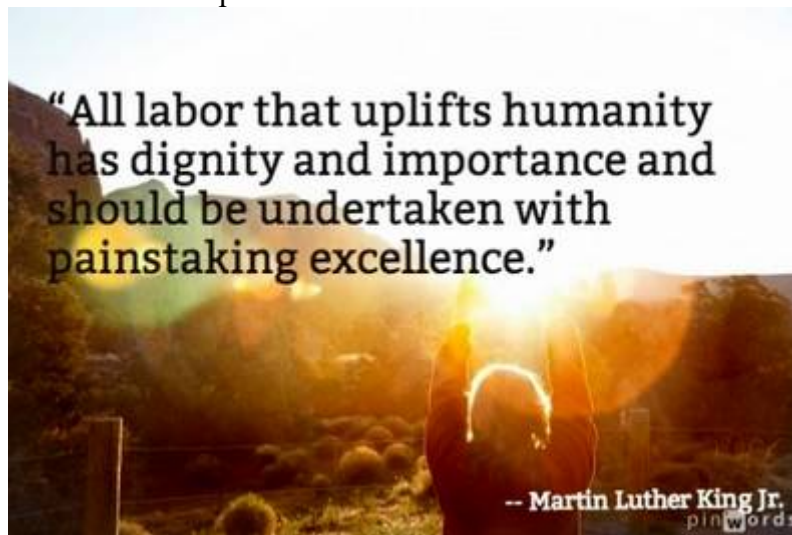
"Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold.

"But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the

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holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic ...

"The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership - the American worker."



Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

**Thursday, September 7, 2017**

*Antifa Exposed*

The following was found on an obscure website named **attackthesystem.com**. Contributor **Keith Preston** posted this anonymous article about **Antifa** dated February 9, 2017. It paints a gripping picture of the alt-left terror group that's been showing up at demonstrations across the country, seemingly for the sole purpose of making trouble. Read on. It's long. It's the real deal.

**\*EXCLUSIVE\***

**Former Antifa Speaks Out Against Antifa**

I've decided to submit this article anonymously to protect against any potential retaliation.

I like to start off by saying that, although I now disavow Antifa, I will always be Anti-Fascist, against racism and against hatred.

In order to understand Antifa and how they operate and "recruit", I will start by telling how I became involved with Antifa.

My story begins in the Fall of 2005. I was 15-years-old, a Sophomore in High School and recently had gotten into the underground Punk and Hardcore scene. It was Friday and my friends and I were pumped about an Oi/Punk/Hardcore show that was taking place that evening in the city. This was only my 4th or 5th show that I had been to, but they were always a good time to be had by all.... until this night.



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

I was expecting an energetic night filled with punk music and typical teenage shenanigans: sneaking a 40oz in the bathroom with my friends, trying to talk to girls, and feeling like a big shot because the club let you smoke even if you weren't 18.

Punk shows were awesome to me because they were ours. My best friend was Korean and it was cool to have a place where no one cared about race and they didn't judge you for having blue hair and shit and you weren't suffocated by preppies and jocks that we had to deal with in the suburbs.

The night was going perfect, everything felt right, it was one of those magical nights where everyone was being cool and the bands were kicking ass.

All of the sudden, however, my life was about to abruptly change forever...

I heard a commotion towards the front of the club with people yelling, screaming and fighting.

My friends and I moved towards the ruckus and I saw a crazy brawl happening. The band that was playing stopped their set, jumped off the stage and forcefully ran past us and started throwing down with the aggressors.

I was absolutely terrified. Being a scrawny 15-year-old punk kid I ran to the back of the club to get away from the mayhem.

So what was behind all of this chaos?

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

9 people. 8 men and 1 woman. They were Neo-Nazi skinheads and they came for a battle.

They beat the hell out of the doorman/bouncer to get in and immediately started brawling hard with anyone who tried to stop them . The story I got later was that they were actually there to brawl with the Band who were playing that night.

The most petrifying thing to me was that it took an entire club of people to stop them, with the Trad skins doing most of the heavy lifting. (Trad Skins are traditional skin heads who are against Nazi skinheads and were basically the only reason the nazi-skinheads would eventually flee that night.)

The show was, obviously, cut short and I had to call my mom to come get us early. (Yeah, none of us drove yet)

As I was walking out of the club I was stepping over pools of blood. A 17 year old girl and a 20 year old guy were stabbed (they both survived), one of the Trad skins entire forehead was cut open by a beer bottle and countless people were bloodied up from the fray.

I felt traumatized and alone. There were only 2 cop cars that showed up (who did nothing to pursue the attackers). There were more ambulances in the parking lot than police. The news didn't do any stories about it, I didn't hear any mention of it in the following days, it's like no one really cared about us. The authorities didn't want anything to do with our petty underworld affairs.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

When my mom got there, the ambulances were still there treating people and I remember her being absolutely mortified. (She never liked the idea of me going to punk shows and she thought the ambulances were there because of a mosh pit... bless her).

I told her it was a fight, nothing serious, to try to reassure her that it wasn't anything to worry about, but consequently I was forbade to go to any more punk shows.

In the following weeks I stayed pretty much in isolation. I felt constantly afraid and sick by what had happened at the club that night. I felt weak and pathetic. I felt like a coward for running to the back of the club in fear. My fear would eventually turn into anger, and my anger would eventually turn into irrational rage.

I finally decided to start going back to shows again despite my mother's command not to ever go to one again.

The next show I went to was a little different from the Oi/Punk and Hardcore shows I was going to before. I liked mostly hardcore punk but I did like a few crusty/anarcho punk/grindcore bands too (but never had been to an anarcho-crust-punk show before.)

This show was at a College and they were doing some sort of anarchist book fair with the tour, so I felt like it would be safe there (and it was).

This is when I came into contact with Antifa, who had a distro set up with Anti Fascist Action literature and what not.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

I was drawn to Antifa because of what I experienced at the club a couple months before that. I felt empowered by a group that aimed to actively address the neo-nazi presence at our shows and take them head on, so I immediately “signed up”.

There is no actual membership to Antifa, you don't pay dues, you don't fill out paperwork or anything like that. You just subscribe to the idea of being against Fascism, work together with your “comrades” and you're in.

I felt like I had a second family with my Antifa brothers and sisters. I felt great to be a part of the resistance... but over time, I noticed something didn't seem right about them.

My first quibble with Antifa came when I made the statement that I believed in free-markets. I was young, critical of Capitalism and big business, but I still felt that free enterprise was superior to a communist system.

I was quickly and aggressively silenced for having those ideas by the self-styled ‘leaders’ of the organization. There were no official leaders of Antifa, but older and more experienced “veteran members” would often assume that role.

It was explained to me that Capitalism was a patriarchal system that required an infrastructure built on racism, sexism and white power. They claimed capitalism, nor free markets (even in a Libertarian sense) were possible without Anglo-Saxon, imperial

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

dominance over minorities and working class exploitation.

They were convincing, articulated and intelligent, so I accepted what they told me was accurate and I dismissed my stance on free markets.

My second ideological altercation came when I denounced black on white prejudice as being the same as white on black racism. I voiced for true equality and the dismantling of all prejudice against any group. I was addressed in an almost violent manner and told that the only reason I felt that way was because I was clinging on to a cultural bias that favored white superiority. I was told that racism required a system of power and that because blacks were marginalized that it was impossible for them to exert any power over whites and therefore lacked the ability to be racist themselves.

Coming from a predominately white, wealthy suburban neighborhood, I felt like this was likely the case and I submitted to them and retracted my statements and apologized. I didn't want to be racist or viewed as such so I listened to everything they told me.

I started to suspect that I was being manipulated. I was watching how they were breaking me down and getting me to conform to their ways, like a cult, but I persisted and my passion towards anti-fascism allowed me to endure and continue my allegiance with the fascist resistance.

After about two years of being into the Anti Fascist movement and essentially adopting their anti-

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

establishment sub-culture, I became a different person from what I was back at the show when I was 15.

I went Freegan (which is like veganism, but you can eat meat if it's out of a dumpster or was a kick-down), I started traveling, hopping freight trains and living in abandoned buildings with other squatters.

We got our beer money from panhandling in college towns, our food from kick downs or dumpster diving and basically lived as free as we could without bowing down to the "system".

We rarely were involved in any actual criminal activity. Robbing people was not allowed and highly discouraged and stealing was only permissible when done so from a corporation. But mostly we played it cool and just did our thing.

I ended up staying in Philly for a while. The hardcore and straight edge scene and the anti-fascist skinheads, SHARPS (Skin Heads Against Racial Prejudice) did a solid job of keeping out the neo-nazis, so it was like a mecca for the underground scene and shows were safe again.

Things were going great for a while, until I went to a show one night that featured a plethora of grindcore, anarchist punk and crust bands and I became disheartened by Antifa once again.

The power was in our hands in those days and in seemed like they lived up to the old adage "absolute power corrupts absolutely."

A guy was taken out of the show and hospitalized by antifascists. The two main perpetrators were females

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

who beat him up with a monkey wrench and shattered his face up pretty bad.

I tried to get to the bottom of what had transpired but the story seemed mixed up. First they said he was a Nazi, then they said he was a Rapist, and then retracted those claims and nonchalantly said "He was just creepy".

Apparently the guy was just drunk and trying to hit on the girls and they justified beating him half to death because "he was just creepy".

I became disillusioned and sought solitude once again. I began to heavily question why no one there was speaking out against the attack. Everyone seemed complacent because the attack was carried out by one of us, even though it was an unnecessary use of force. Over the next few months I became more and more dislocated from the antifascists because of unjustified violence.

They would beat up someone they thought was a nazi, then justify their mistake by saying "whatever, he was rich".

It got to the point where they could justify violence against anyone with these loose associations to fascism.

"Oh, it's cool that we beat him up, he's friends with someone who denied the holocaust. Oh, it's cool that we kicked that guy's ass because he said something sexist. Oh, that guy deserved us stomping him into the ground because he had a 'Skrewdriver' song on his windows media player playlist."

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

It was insanity and I was beginning to wake up and break their spell over me. And I wasn't the only one. Many of the Trad Skins, who were more conservative, started distancing themselves from the ultra-left wing antifascists. The focused unity we once had was falling apart.

The last straw, the straw that broke the camels back, for me, was when I reluctantly decided to give them another chance. I went to a meet up with a large number of antifas to discuss an upcoming neo-nazi rally that we wanted to protest.

In this meeting, that took place in an abandoned warehouse downtown, people were seriously putting ideas on the table that involved shooting bus tires out that would be transporting the neo-nazis to the rally, effectively making the bus crash, and then savagely beating up anyone, including the driver (because he was enabling them), that was on the bus.

They never used any guns, but I knew at that point that I was involved in gang warfare and it was time to get out before it was too late.

I got my life together and never looked back.

For years I stayed silent about Antifa, because in reality most of them were good kids like I was who just got too deep into ideology, idealism and this whole anarcho-punk sub-culture.

The movement hooks you in because you want to stand up against fascism but most of the kids don't realize they're joining a militant communist organization with cult-like, rigid rules.



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

What happened in UC Berkeley sparked me to write this expose`. I don't particularly care for Milo Yiannapolous but I can tell you with certainty, being someone who had encountered actual neo-nazis in my life on several occasions, that this guy is not a Nazi and they know that.

Antifa was just using their 'loose association' ideology in order to justify attacks against people with conservative ideas, because they fear the man's ability to gain strength against them.

One thing that I noticed that conservative news outlets often conceptualize inaccurately is that Antifa are merely emotional liberals who are dissatisfied with Trump's victory.

It's important to understand that this is not the case. Antifa are not liberals by any stretch of the imagination. They are very far-left and do not align with liberal ideology. Most of the veteran Antifas I knew were in full support of Asian, Middle-Asian, African and European guerrilla revolutionaries that were fighting in communist uprisings. Namely the support of the Communist Party of India, known as Maoists, to which they gave their unconditional support to.

Antifa are left-wing extremists, not your run-of-the-mill liberal "social justice warrior" type. (even though they seem similar). This makes Antifa very dangerous and should be considered a real threat; an equal if not greater threat than National Socialist and white nationalist groups.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

My advice to young people who are thinking about joining up with hate groups or extremist groups would be to seek balance in your life. Seek compassion and kindheartedness. Extremism is a dangerous objective no matter which side of the field you're on. Always keep your own identity, think for yourself and be rational. Be an individual. You can have your ideas and your passions but don't let them consume you the way I let them consume me. Chaos and violence only lead to more chaos and violence and much consideration must be implemented to understand when it is absolutely necessary to use force. It's almost always better to not use force. The pen is mightier than the sword and the individual can often be stronger than the group. We're all human and we all need to stop the craziness and try to function like loving and caring human beings.

Stay away from Antifa, they're just another hate group cloaked as freedom fighters.

Peace, love and best wishes. Thank you for reading.

Now you know.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, September 11, 2017**

*Color it Mainstream*

Today is the anniversary of the 9/11 attack on America's Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Please take a little time to reflect on the past 16 years and remember not only the people who perished in New York and Washington DC, but also the people who gave their lives to bring down an airliner originally headed for the White House. And please say a special thank you for all the first responders who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. While we're at it, let's send up some prayers for all the people who have been affected by hurricanes this year. Thanks.

Now ... to the subject at hand.

My good friend **James P Haley II** penned a few remarks on Facebook a while back about the President's recent visit to Phoenix and the negative press it attracted. "... *The blame lies squarely at the presidents and the protesters feet. We need to stop blaming the messenger and evaluate the message.*" In reply, I argued as follows:

"I have to disagree, my friend. All you have to do is scan through the media to get an idea how much of an anti-Trump agenda there is out there in the mainstream media. Even Fox News is slowly moving to ape CNN and MSNBC - mainly because folks are watching Rachel Maddow, looking for her to spout another accusation or innuendo. It's working - her ratings are WAY up! Be that as it may, read the news online - RCP, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Huffington Post, et al. The worst part is the news isn't news anymore - it's slanted, biased and full of mis-

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statements of fact - fake news, if you will. As an ol' geezer journalist with roots in both print and broadcast, I can tell you true, Trump is right on the button with his barbs at the mainstream media. The problem is they all fall back on the First Amendment to defend 'fake' news. You don't get Who, What, When, Where and Why/How anymore ... it's all opinion and color - not real hard-core news."

Haley later replied: "*FOX, The Blaze, Breitbart, WorldNetDaily, The Washington Times, The National Examiner, The Standard, et al are all opinionated and biased.*" Of course, I agree. But, Mr. Haley and others put blame for any political negativity these days flatly on the President's back. I thought I covered James' allegations pretty well. There is an excellent in-depth article covering the whole mainstream story. Conservative broadcaster **Dennis Prager** wrote the following for **RealClearPolitics** August 23rd:

"Our leading media" are characterized by "indefensibly corrupt manipulations of language repeated incessantly." - - - **Patrick Lawrence** in **The Nation**, Aug. 9, 2017, on the media's reporting of the alleged collusion between Donald Trump's campaign and Russia

To understand America's crises today, one must first understand what has happened to two institutions: the university and the news media. They do not regard their mission as educating and informing but indoctrinating.

In this column, I will focus on the media. I will dissect one issue that I know extremely well: the national and local coverage of the invitation extended to me to guest-conduct the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra

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at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. The concert took place last week.

I am well aware that this event is far less significant than many other issues. But every aspect of the reporting of this issue applies to virtually every issue the media cover. Therefore, understanding how The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and NPR covered my story leads to an almost-perfect understanding of how the media cover every story where the left has a vested interest.

When it comes to straight news stories -- say, an earthquake in Central America -- the news media often do their job responsibly. But when a story has a left-wing interest, the media abandon straight news reporting and take on the role of advocates.

As I explained in detail in a previous column, the board of directors of the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, Guido Lamell, invited me to guest-conduct a Haydn symphony at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. I have conducted regional orchestras in Southern California over the last 20 years.

Sometime thereafter, four members of the orchestra published a letter asking their fellow musicians not to perform, claiming, "Dennis Prager is a right-wing radio host who promotes horribly bigoted positions." They were joined by former Santa Monica Mayor Kevin McKeown, who announced, "I personally will most certainly not be attending a concert featuring a bigoted hate-monger," among others.

Then, The New York Times decided to write a piece on the controversy.

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The first question is why? Why would the Times write about a controversy begun by a few members of a community orchestra in California?

I am quite certain that one reason was to protect the left. My original column on the issue, titled "Can a Conservative Conduct an Orchestra?" went viral. And it made the left look bad. Not only was the left trying to prevent conservatives from *speaking*; it was now trying to prevent a conservative from *not speaking* -- from just making music.

Therefore, it was necessary to show that the left in Santa Monica had legitimate reasons to try to prevent me from conducting. And the only way to do that was to reaffirm that I am a hater and a bigot.

The Times writer wasted no time in portraying me that way. He wrote, "a number of them are refusing to play the fund-raiser, saying that allowing the orchestra to be conducted by Mr. Prager, who has suggested that same-sex marriage would lead to polygamy and incest, among other contentious statements, would be tantamount to endorsing and normalizing bigotry."

**Lesson No. 1:** When the mainstream media write or say that a conservative "suggested" something that sounds outrageous, it usually means the conservative never actually said it. After all, why write "suggested" and not "said" or "wrote"? Be suspicious whenever anything attributed to a conservative has no quotation marks and no source.

Seven paragraphs later -- long after having mischaracterized my words to prime the readers'

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perception -- the Times writer did quote me on the subject. He said, "Mr. Prager suggested that if same-sex marriage were legalized, then 'there is no plausible argument for denying polygamous relationships, or brothers and sisters, or parents and adult children, the right to marry.'"

Though no context was given, the words quoted are accurate and a source was given. It was a 2014 column I wrote about judges having hubris for overturning voters in state after state who voted to keep marriage defined as the union of a man and a woman. I was responding to then-District Judge Vaughn Walker, who ruled on California's Proposition 8, which amended the state's constitution to say that defining marriage as "the union of a man and woman" is unconstitutional.

One of Judge Walker's arguments was that "Proposition 8 prevents California from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis."

I wrote in the column, "If American society has a 'constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis,' then there is no plausible argument for denying polygamous relationships, or brothers and sisters, or parents and adult children, the right to marry."

Had The New York Times author been intellectually honest, he would have written the context and the entire quote. Or, if he had wanted to merely paraphrase me, he could have written, "Prager suggested that if same-sex marriage were legalized,

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there were no arguments against legalizing polygamy and adult incest."

But that would have sounded a lot less awful than saying I suggested same-sex marriage will lead to polygamy and incest.

So, for as long as human beings and the internet exist, people who wish to dismiss me or my views on same-sex marriage will quote The New York Times mischaracterization. Readers will not know that the quote about same-sex marriage and incest is not mine but that of a New York Times writer.

**Lesson No. 2:** When used by the mainstream media, the words "divisive" or "contentious" simply mean "leftists disagree with."

Both words were used in The New York Times piece. The writer wrote that my "political views are divisive" and that I've made "other contentious statements."

But the only reason my views are "divisive" and "contentious" is The New York Times differs with them.

During the eight-year presidency of Barack Obama, did The New York Times once describe anything he did or said as "divisive" or "contentious" (including his pre-2012 opposition to the legalization of same-sex marriage)?

**Lesson No. 3:** Contrary evidence is omitted.

Despite all the Santa Monica musicians who supported my conducting; despite the musicians from other orchestras -- including the Los Angeles Philharmonic -- who asked to play when I conducted;



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and despite the orchestra's conductor and board members who have followed my work for decades, *not one quote in the entire article described me in a positive light.*

Rather, the article is filled with quotes describing me in the worst possible way. Two of the four musicians who wrote the original letter against me are quoted extensively (calling me "horribly bigoted" and saying I help "normalize bigotry"); a gay member of the orchestra is quoted accusing me of writing "some pretty awful things about gay people, women and minorities" (for the record, I have never written an awful word about gay people, women or minorities); and the former mayor's attack on me was quoted.

**Lesson No. 4:** Subjects are covered in line with left-wing ideology.

The subject of the article could have easily (and more truthfully) been covered in a positive way, as something unifying and uplifting.

"Despite coming from different political worlds, a leading conservative and a very liberal city unite to make music together" -- why wasn't this the angle of the story?

Similarly, instead of its headline, "Santa Monica Symphony Roiled by Conservative Guest Conductor," the Times could have used a headline and reported the very opposite: "Santa Monica Symphony Stands by Conservative Guest Conductor."

That also would have conveyed more truth than the actual headline. But the difference between "roiled

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by" and "stands by" is the difference between a left-wing agenda and truth.

And even with the headline as it appeared in the Times, shouldn't the story have offered quotes from supportive musicians to balance the negativity? One was left wondering why the invitation to guest-conduct was offered to such a person to begin with.

Now let's go to the Los Angeles Times, which was as negative as The New York Times, though at least its two negative columns were opinion columns -- unlike The New York Times, they were not news stories, strictly speaking.

On Aug. 8, Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik, a Pulitzer Prize winner, wrote a column headlined "How right-winger Dennis Prager politicized his own symphony gig -- and declared himself the victim."

The mendacity of the title is quite something. Never in all the years I have conducted orchestras have I used the opportunity to say a political word. My sole purpose has been to conduct orchestras, raise funds for those community orchestras and bring new people to classical music. The only people to ever politicize my conducting appearances are a few left-wing musicians and politicians in Santa Monica.

Those people made my conducting a political issue. Yet Hiltzik writes that I am the one who did. "It's Prager himself who pumped up the political component of the controversy," he says.

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This is a fine example of "the indefensibly corrupt manipulations of language repeated incessantly in our leading media."

It is also worth noting that every mainstream news source, like the Los Angeles Times, identified me as either "right-wing" or "conservative." Commentators and talk show hosts on the left, however, are virtually never identified as "left-wing" or "liberal." This is because in the closed world of the left, the left is the norm and the right is the aberration.

Hiltzik also wrote that "many in the orchestra find Prager's views noxious." That was after writing, "So far, seven musicians have said they won't perform ... leaving 70 still on the roster."

Apparently, about 1 out of 10 is "many." (Hiltzik also didn't mention the equal number of musicians from other orchestras who asked to play when I conducted.) Then there was the column by the Los Angeles Times classical music critic, Mark Swed.

He wrote: "Can a divisive public conservative amateur musician conduct an orchestra? That's asking for trouble."

Note again the word "divisive" -- only conservatives divide because, again, in the mind of the left, left is normative. And in case you missed it the first time, Swed later wrote about my "militant polarizing of issues."

As a conservative, I am not only divisive; I am a militant polarizer.

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Does Swed provide an example of my militant polarizing? Yes, just one: my "calling liberalism a cancer."

Like The New York Times article, Swed did not place the words he attributed to me in quotation marks, and for good reason. I have never in my life written or said that "liberalism is a cancer." What I did write recently is that "leftism is a terminal cancer in the American bloodstream."

But I always distinguish between leftism and liberalism because the two have almost nothing in common. Leftism is as anti-liberal as it is anti-conservative. But Swed knows that writing "liberalism is a cancer" renders me far more extreme-sounding than writing "leftism is a cancer."

However, what is most disturbing about Swed is not that he wrote a column against the Santa Monica Symphony inviting me to conduct. Hiltzik wrote a similar piece, after all. But as irresponsible as Hiltzik's piece was, Hiltzik is a political columnist. Swed is not. He is a classical music critic. What he did was one of the reasons I wrote that leftism is a cancer in the American bloodstream: The left damages virtually everything it touches -- the arts, education, religion, the economy, the news media and the military, among other areas of life.

When I was a young man living in New York City, I read every column the legendary New York Times classical music critic Harold C. Schonberg wrote. I do not recall him ever writing a political column. To this day, I have no idea whether Schonberg was a liberal, a leftist, a conservative or a Buddhist. He knew his role

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was to write about music. Swed, a man of the left, does not.

Finally, we come to NPR. It published a piece on Aug. 13 titled "Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra Confronts Controversy Over Right-Wing Guest Conductor."

Putting the title aside -- again, it communicates a negative story when a positive take would have been just as valid -- the piece was considerably more balanced than those of the Los Angeles Times or that of The New York Times.

But it had the usual media defect: It gave away its political bent. The second paragraph read: "Dennis Prager's day job, however, has members of the orchestra up in arms -- and laying down their instruments. He is a conservative talk show host who often targets multiculturalism, Muslims and LGBTQ people."

The writer gave an example in each case. For multiculturalism, she cited a column I wrote titled "1,400 Girls Raped by Multiculturalism." In it I described the kidnapping and sexual enslavement of over 1,400 English girls by young Muslim men over the course of more than a decade -- while the police and the media conspired never to divulge that the rapists were Muslim. The reason, as British authorities later admitted, was their commitment to multiculturalism.

But for a writer at NPR -- even one who did not go out of her way to portray me as a mean-spirited bigot, as The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times

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did -- the mere fact that I wrote a column against multiculturalism explains why members of the orchestra were "up in arms."

As for "targeting" Muslims, she cited my column titled "Yes, Muslims Should Be Asked to Condemn Islamic Terror." In NPR's moral universe, asking Muslims to condemn Islamic terror is equivalent to "targeting" Muslims. When the left demands that our white president condemn white-supremacist violence, is it targeting whites?

And the example she supplied for my "targeting" LGBTQ people is my 2014 critique of judges who, I argued, overreached their authority when they overturned popular votes to keep marriage defined as the union of a man and a woman. The whole article was a critique of judges, not LGBTQ people. But on the left, merely disagreeing with judges about an LGBTQ issue is "targeting" LGBTQ people.

**In summary**, all mainstream media coverage of this one story was tainted, biased, often false and predicated solely on left-wing presumptions. Magnify what they did to me a thousandfold and you will begin to understand media behavior over the last two generations, and especially behavior today, when hysteria and advocacy have completely replaced news reporting.

The media pay little or no price among those who still believe them.

But I will pay a price. The New York Times lied when it wrote that I "suggested that same-sex marriage would lead to polygamy and incest." Yet that will be cited forever as if it were true.

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It's already begun. On the night of the concert, the Fox TV station in Los Angeles reported: "A left wing attempt to boycott a performance of the Santa Monica Symphony due to a guest appearance by conservative radio host Dennis Prager backfired on Wednesday night; the event was a sellout. ... Prager has made controversial comments in the past, saying that he believes gay marriage would lead to incest."

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, September 14, 2017**

### Identity Politics

It is my contention that so-called "Identity Politics" is no more than a method developed by liberals to make it easier for community organizers to do their work. *Divide and conquer*, the saying goes ... and so it is with those poor unsuspecting Democrats. However, on the face of it, that appears to be just ducky to America's great white unwashed!

**Saul Alinsky** wrote all about it in his ***Rules for Radicals***. To quote an early passage from the book: "*Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder acknowledgment to the very first radical: from all our legends, mythology, and history (and who is to know where mythology leaves off and history begins - or which is which), the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom - Lucifer*"

The crux of Alinsky's writing applies perfectly to today's liberal Democrats: "*Their fears and frustrations at their helplessness are mounting to a point of a political paranoia which can demonize people to turn to the law of survival in the narrowest sense.*" Does this somehow account for the strife between the alt-right and **Antifa**?

White middle-class America rolls on while "progressive" splinter groups - identifying themselves by race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual preference or whatever - struggle for enough recognition to make a difference.

Only about half the country identifies itself by political party. 71% of the population are registered voters. America's



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majority (41%, according to a **Gallup** poll in early August) is composed of **Independents** and folks who have other fish to fry. **Democrats**, who comprise only 28% of the electorate, are split sixteen ways from Sunday! **Republicans**, also 28% of registered voters, cannot decide whether they are conservative or pragmatic. To America's progressives, everyone else is a bunch of sexist, intolerant, xenophobic, homophobic, corrupt, Islamophobic, racist, bigoted, foulmouthed creeps hanging out with an irredeemable basket of un-American deplorables. And that, mind you, is just for starters!

With a population approaching 325 million, America boasts just over 232 million registered voters, 139 million of which voted in the 2016 General election. In the 2000 General election some 55% of the electorate turned out to vote. The 2004 elections saw just over 60% hit the ballot box. In 2008 that number jumped to 62%. By 2012 turnout had dropped to 58%. But, in 2016 the effects of Identity politics had boosted voter turnout to a smidgeon over 60%.

These days, you can identify pretty much any group by their colors. **Black Lives Matter**, **Anonymous** and **Antifa** are usually garbed in Black. **Supremacists** generally display red flags, with or without the confederate stars & bars. The **LGBTQ** bunch carries (and many times wears) the rainbow. **Hispanic** or **Latino** crowds will dress mostly in white and carry red, white and green banners and flags. Hard-core women's organizations, such as **NOW**, tend to wear red - but then, so do **Republicans** and **Bloods** gang members. And, of course, **Democrats** identify with blue colors ... but, be careful - **MS-13** gang members are into blue, as are members of the **Crips**.

But then ... there is one big, disorganized bunch - the ones who appear to be in charge these days without wearing any

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specific colors or garb - except maybe red, white and blue. These are the ones who make up the majority of any gathering just about anywhere. These are the people who turn up to help when there is a crisis. These folks have the backs of law enforcement and first responders. They're the little people - the ones who just sorta blend into the background. Yet, they are the backbone of America's greatness. Once upon a time, they were called the "great silent majority," a phrase coined by President **Richard Nixon** in a November 1963 TV address. Well, they re-appeared in the 2016 election cycle when Sheriff **Joe Arpaio** called them out at a **Trump** Rally in Fountain Hills, Arizona.

To the great unwashed middle-American silent majority, colors have nothing to do with it. To them, identity is who you are - not the tribe to which you belong. I carry here a very clear message - to Congressional name-callers, rabble-rousers and sleazy identity politicians - from the great silent majority: Stop pissin' off middle-Americans!

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## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Monday, September 18, 2017**

I was in Jail!

A week ago, I watched as the Twin Towers came down for the sixteenth time and remembered where I was when 9/11 happened. I was in the Gila County jail in Globe, Arizona! No, I wasn't doing time. I was doing work as a Gila County Sheriff's Office Detention Officer. That was my job from November 8, 2000 to April 18, 2004.

American Airlines Flight 11 - out of Boston bound for LAX with 81 passengers and 11 crew members on board - crashed into the North tower of the World Trade Center in New York at 8:46am Eastern Time. That was about a quarter-to-six Arizona Time. I was busy getting ready for work and was due at the morning briefing scheduled for 6:30am. I left for GCSO at 6:00 and turned on the car radio to listen to the news on a local radio station. Nothing was reported on the six o'clock news about a plane crashing into the World Trade Center. Instead, it was the usual boring clutter of rural Public Service Announcements and meeting notices.

I arrived at work at 6:20am - the place was dead silent except for television sets. The inmates had been fed at 5:30 and let out into the day rooms after their trays had been picked up. They were all sitting in front of the TVs, staring, silent. All of the television networks were airing coverage of the second plane - United Airlines flight 175 with 56 passengers and nine crew members aboard - which had crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center at 6:03am our time.

The Jail was locked down at 6:30 for Morning Briefing. At about 6:45 Control announced that the networks were reporting a plane had crashed into the Pentagon at 6:38 our

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time. Briefing was over at about 6:50 and we started head count. The TVs were left on so the inmates could hear what was going on. I was in the North Tank (Housing Unit), walking by one of the TVs, when the South Tower came down. It was 6:59 Arizona Time.

After Head Count all of the inmates were let out of their cells. All of them - every one - seated themselves on the floor and the steel benches and tables in front of the TVs. They had heard the reports of a plane crash near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and there was speculation that it might have been headed for the Capitol. Just before 7:30 Arizona Time the North Tower came down, taking the Marriott Hotel with it. The inmates sat there, glued to the TVs, until the Jail was locked-down for lunch. After "chow" everyone went back to watching the scenes unfold on the TVs.

When I worked at the jail, Security Walks were done every fifteen minutes to half-an-hour or so. September 11, 2001 was different. All of the Detention Officers walked continuously from Tank to Tank - West, Trusty Dorm, North, South and East Housing Units - so they could catch the latest information from New York as the day unfolded. The rest is history.

One thing about being in jail - just about everyone is safe there except Detention Officers. On 9/11 all of the people in the Gila County Jail, inmates and officers alike, to a man, were worried about their safety. How on earth was it possible for someone - anyone - to hijack a commercial aircraft and use it as a weapon? Much less four of them at about the same time? Could someone do the same thing against a smaller building with a bus or a dump-truck? What kind of carnage could be done using a train or an ocean liner? Man, oh man, I'm tellin' you ... it sure was a scary time!.

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**Thursday, September 21, 2017**

Big BANG!

The question is: What was there before the Big Bang?

The fossil record, as we call it, is pretty clear that **Charles Darwin** was right with his *Origin of the Species* theory. We were formed in a primordial "Soup" composed of amino acids created by chemical reactions with heat and lightning as the earth was coming to life. From the earliest cells cobbled together by the so-called building blocks of life, we split off bit by bit, creating the beginnings of everything around us. Among the creatures that swim, fly, crawl, wriggle or walk, one of the branches of our evolution was composed of ape-like creatures that eventually became mankind.

We come from a Carbon-based chemistry and are made of organic compounds. The first organic compound synthesized in a lab, by the way, was urea ... that's one of the reasons why mankind has always been so pissy! Seriously, though ... I believe that we are all products of the Universe - and respond to the four fundamental interactions or forces: gravitation, electromagnetism, the weak interaction, and the strong interaction, and that we are made up of the matter that is universally subjected to those forces across time and space.

Who organized the Universe and its laws of physics? We did! We are the Universe. We are God and He is US! We know from **Genesis** that *"In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. And the Earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."* And when God said *"Let there be light"* there WAS light - the **Big Bang**, if you will. And there we were ... BANG! ... just like that - flying away

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into deep space at the speed of light, collecting in groups and clusters, creating the stars and the planets and their moons! Wow!

I don't remember it happening - it was much too long ago. But, we were there from the beginning! When God decided to create man in his image - he took a piece of us and made Adam, and from his rib, created Eve. The ladies will tell you that after He worked out the kinks in Adam, He created woman! We all know the rest of the story ... the Biblical allegory of man's creation and evolution that scientists, physicists, doctors, theoreticians and theologians can all agree on.

Our physical bodies are microcosms of the Universe that God created with a BANG! Our mental processes operate by the same principles of physics that apply everywhere in the Universe. This is why we never really die - why we are always present, even after the death and subsequent decomposition of our physical being - this is why people believe in ghosts or spirits. We are everywhere in the Universe. As the Universe expands infinitely away from the original location of the Big Bang, there remains a finite number of us that make up its part and parcel, spreading at the speed of light across time and space.

The great philosophical question for me has always been: Was God created the same way as we were ... and is He, too, a microcosm of something even more extravagant?

Contrary to what you may have read in the *Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Universe*, I think the answer to *Life, the Universe and Everything* is not 42, but rather, more like the Universe on *Orion's belt*. You may recall the cat with the Charm on the belt around his neck (Orion's belt) in the original movie, *Men In Black*. The Charm contained the Universe - a Universe within a Universe, so to speak - one a carbon-copy of the other. Is it possible that inside Orion's

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Charm - inside that tiny Universe - there is a cat named Orion wearing another belt with a Charm on it containing another copy of the Universe? Conversely, is it possible that our tiny Universe is contained in an infinitely larger Charm on a belt worn by a humongous cat named Orion? Of course it's possible ... after all, it's us. We are the World. We are the children. We are the Universe. We are everywhere. God is everywhere. Therefore, we are God and He is US!

Let's take it a step further. Why do believe in Jesus? Because He, like God, is us. Jesus Christ is the Holy Trinity - The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, all in the same instant. If we are truly Father, Son and Holy Spirit, how could we not believe in ourselves? I used both Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit in this paragraph because they are different. The Holy Spirit comes from God and accompanies all blessings that flow from Him. The Holy Ghost is the third entity of the Holy Trinity. The Spirit and the Ghost are not the same, but they come from the same source - us. Thus, we are at once the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit, and They are us!

The original question was, "What was there before the Big Bang?" The answer is we were! We were there before the Big Bang because God was there and He is us! Go figure ...

One more thing: Tomorrow is the first day of Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. The Autumnal Equinox, as it's called, begins at 4:02pm EDT. The Autumnal Equinox is a day in the later half of the year when night and day are roughly the same length, something that happens again in the Spring with the advent of the Vernal Equinox. The word Equinox is a derivative of the Latin words *Aequus* [equal] and *Nocits* [night]. Welcome to Fall, troops!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, September 25, 2017**

Friendly Little Game?

Last time, we explored the origins of the Big Bang and concluded that since we are God and He is us, we are responsible for that epoch's happening. That, of course, begs the question, if we are God and He is us, how was He created? Faith is one thing, but blind faith is something else again. If we are to accept that we are responsible for the creation of Life, the Universe and Everything, and if we truly believe that God is us, how did we come to be? That's some really deep philosophical stuff! My contention is that He was created the same way we were ... a power infinitely greater than God created Him, and therefore, us. Can you imagine in your wildest expectations how big that Bang had to be?

Well, that's about as far as I can stretch that subject for now. So, how 'bout we move on to something a little more palatable?

Wasn't it **WOPR** that asked of **Mathew Broderick** and **Ally Sheedy** in the now-classic 1983 movie **War Games**, "*Would you like to play a game? How about a friendly little game of Global Thermonuclear War*"? At the end of the movie WOPR clarifies the object lesson: There is no winner in a Global Thermonuclear War.

Someone asked why China caved in to President Trump's insistence that the U.S. will not trade with any country that trades with North Korea. China and the United States, between them, have probably the largest movement of goods and services than any pair of trading partners in the history of the world. If China insisted on trading with North Korea it would be cutting off its nose to spite its face, as the saying



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goes. The piddly amount of trade China has with North Korea is next to nothing compared with the United States. China's experience with Donald Trump so far has clearly indicated that the US President means what he says ... even if he sometimes says it in an off-the-wall way. China's banks have been instructed to cease dealings with North Korea and not involve themselves with any new contracts after current ones have been satisfied.

I wasn't there, but I'll bet hard money that Trump told the Chinese that if North Korea was allowed to build and deploy nuclear weapons, its first target after the US, South Korea and Japan would be the military and civilian assets closest to its northern-most border. So far, Russia has kept a more-or-less tippy-toe attitude in this made-for-tv Mexican stand-off. Nevermind the UN is cooperating with the United States in condemning North Korea's threats and intimidation; the UN has been unable - since its inception - to secure and maintain continuing peace where it has stepped on foreign soil. Trump's overtures at the UN have gotten their attention - and that of the major powers in the world. They have slowly figured out that Trump means what he says.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un may have bitten off more than he can chew. Would he be able to give up the power and prestige he inherited from his father if he was certain, beyond doubt, that he and his people would be annihilated in retaliation for a Nuclear attack on South Korea or Japan, Guam or any other US Territory? Bringing that incredible pressure to bear on North Korea's Supreme Leader has to be the main goal of every act of diplomacy put forth by the Free World. Be that as it may ... Kim Jong Un's bluster in the face of almost world-wide condemnation has to pale when compared to Donald Trump's fusillades. The problem at hand is how do the UN and the United States convince Kim Jong Un to chill? Can North Korea's Rocket-Man (Elton John - "I'm not the

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

man they think I am at home") and America's Dotard (an old person, who has become weak or senile) come to grips with this escalating situation? When you stop to think about it, Un doesn't need to back down, he just needs to back off! There is no shame in that ... especially if it keeps him and his people safe.

Reunification has been the dream of both North and South Korean civilians for longer than many of them have been alive. It took war to unify North and South Viet Nam. But does there have to be the spectre of all-out Nuclear War to get the leaders of the two countries to sit down across the table from one another and hammer out a way to reunify? They wouldn't need a WOPR to figure out how to make that happen, would they? Seriously ...

Columbia U's answer to the WOPR, the DEC-10/20, ca 1983  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/computinghistory/ka10.jpg>



*"A strange game. The only winning move is not to play."*

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

### *Orders of magnitude*

Last time, we were contemplating what WOPR would do or say if tasked (again) with Global Thermonuclear War. The answer then - as it is now - is the same, *"A strange game. The only winning move is not to play."*

There was a photo attached to the article. The one below, as a matter of fact. It's a picture of the DEC-10/20 computer at Columbia University sometime around 1983. At the time, this was one of the biggest, baddest computation devices on the face of the planet!



Let me tell you a few things about the DEC-10/20 series of computers. DEC, which stands for Digital Equipment Company, was IBM's (International Business Machines) greatest competitor. These big boys were enormous, yet tiny compared to today's desktop rigs!

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

There are three large pieces of equipment in the foreground. The two on the left are hard disc drives (HDDs) and the thing on the right is a printer (that's the paper-feed in the middle.) This computer has two-Megabytes of Hard Drive space (2MB). Yes, each of those monsters had the capacity to store and retrieve a single megabyte (1 million Bytes) of data! At the time a byte (B) was composed of eight bits (b). So a one MB drive would hold 8 Mb - pretty snazzy at the time! The DEC-10/20 computer's Central Processing Unit (CPU) cobbled together 36-bit Bytes to do its work. Today's CPUs, hard drives and memories use 16-, 32- and 64-bit Bytes. (Those multiples of 8 go back to the earliest days of computing.)

Here's what the largest 8-bit byte represents:  $11111111=1+2+4+8+16+32+64+128=255$ . There are 256 8-bit Bytes when you include zero which is 00000000. It's the binary system upon which all computing had its beginnings. The ASCII code uses only half the characters available. ASCII stands for the *American Standard Code for Information Interchange* and it uses 0 through 127 to represent characters. For instance, the ASCII code for the capital letter "M" is 077 in Decimal or 4D in Hexadecimal. Once you understand these nifty ways of communicating - and have had time to play with them for a while - it's not that bad. Really!

The printer is just huge! Its paper has holes along the edges which are used to get the paper through its tractor-feed to the print-head. The paper comes as a continuous mass in a box that will hold 2300 sheets - the equivalent of 4.6 (500 sheet) reams of 8½ x 14 inch paper - (after the tractor-feed edges are torn off and the sheets separated from each other.) It was the custom at the time to have paper that had very light green horizontal stripes on it, which was thought to make it easier to read lines of computer code. You can still buy tractor-feed

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

paper, which some printers like the Epson LQ-590 still use. It's available through Amazon, Office-Max, Staples and even WalMart. As a manager at the UofA in Tucson, I found it interesting that most printers in those days used 14 x 8½ inch tractor-feed paper because it accomodated the usual 128 ten-point alpha-numeric character line of computer code.

By the way ... the white thing on the stand in the middle of the area is a stand-alone table-top printer/keyboard/fax. There is no visible wiring because it all goes through the floor, which is insulated and elevated about two feet above the room's foundation. The whole system is housed in a "clean room" with tightly-controlled temperature and humidity. In the very early days, operators wore gloves, conductive paper suits and "footies" to maintain the super-clean environment. Back then, a single speck of dust could "crash" an expensive Hard Drive in a split-second!

These days we don't talk megs anymore ... we talk GIGs and TERAs! For the un-initiated: a mega-anything is a Million. A giga-thing is a Billion. And a Tera-gizmo is Trillion of stuff. A Tera is a thousnd times more than a Giga ... and a Giga is a thousand times more than a Mega. We're talking orders of magnitude here, troops! The number 1,000 is three orders of magnitude larger than the number one (count the zeros). A Million is six orders of magnitude larger than one. A Billion is nine orders of magnitude larger than one. And a Trillion is TWELVE orders of magnitude larger than one. 1,000,000,000,000 is a Trillion.

Today we have Hard Drives in our desktop home computers that can hold two Tera-bytes (TB) of information - that's a thousand-thousand times more than the combined Columbia University Hard Drives' capacity. Those one-Mega-byte Columbia University Hard Drives were as big as today's La-

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Z-boy® Recliner! And yet, now a two Tera-Byte Drive is about half the size of a standard paper-back book!

The little pairs of white circles on the back and right sides of the photo are tape drives. At the time, Hard Drives were extremely expensive, so half- to three-quarter-inch wide high-quality audio/video tape was used to store most programs and lots of data. The five small drives in the back are used for programs for the most part; the two larger ones on the right are usually for data. To run a program back in the day required the user to "play" the program from the tape-drive into the computer's memory (that would be all the rest of the cabinets along the rear and the left of the picture.) Today's smart-phone - slightly larger than a playing card - is more powerful than UC's whole room full of DEC computing equipment!

To give you an idea of what we can do with a desk-top computer these days, here is what my machine has in it: A CPU that runs at 3.41 GHz into 8GB of Hard (stick) Memory, a 3TB Hard Disc Drive (HDD), a ½TB Solid State Drive (SSD), a ¼TB SSD, three 500GB HDDs, and two old 80GB HDDs. Of course, there is also the keyboard, mouse, monitor, CD/DVD player/recorder, audio system, printer/fax/scanner, satellite dish, modem and router to allow communication with the rest of the world. I can't imagine the amount of space my stuff would have taken up in 1983 ... much less how many millions of dollars it would have cost.

It's amazing how far computer technology has come in just the last 34 years. Who's to say what comes next in our world of communications and computer science? To me, it's all just "Far out!"

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Monday, October 2, 2017**

*I have Decided*

I'm proud to publish the following missive penned by my son,  
**John L. Thayer:**

"I have decided how I feel about the Congress, White House and Mainstream News Media.

"We need more common Men and Women in the House of Representatives, Less Lawyers and Bankers in the Senate, and the Media to do their job based on the principles taught to members of the Associated Press and National Press Club.

"We need to reestablish the evening news reporting of the days when newsmen like Walter Cronkite, Edward Morrow, Robert Pierpoint, Robert Trout, Betty Wason, Marguerite Higgins were at the desk, and the occasional 'op-ed' piece that was presented in an interesting or even funny, way from the likes of Charles Kuralt, Paul Harvey and Andy Rooney.

"Yes, I grew up listening and watching the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS). I even worked for a local affiliate for a winter break in college for both pay and college credit.

"As much as I still respect Bill Moyers and Charlie Rose, both men have fallen into the 60 Minutes traps of the mainstream thinking and production of the modern media as seen by CBS Senior News Producer Don Hewitt. These tools include, and are not limited to, the tricks of selective editing, bad lighting, digital overlays and filters, and using programs like Adobe

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Premiere and Sony Vegas to use these effects in the presentation of pre-recorded news segments.

"I'm tired of the whole damned evening shows based on speculation, hearsay, selective internal polls, and the opinions of so-called 'experts', many of whom have no business speaking about the topic to begin with."

That's my boy! Cut from the cloth of America's Southwest!  
My heart swells with pride!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, October 5, 2017**

### Snowflaking

New word:

### **snowflaking**

[snó-flá-king]

noun - the act of a person feeling uncertainty or confusion

adjective - unable to stand alone; dependent

verb - (used without object)

adverb - snowflakingly

***Snowflaking*** appeared out of the blue as I tried to describe the feeling of having no say in what happens around us. Few will stand up for what is right because so many are confused by today's definition(s) of right and wrong.

Snowflaking is what **NFL** players got trapped into when former San Francisco 49er quarter-back **Colin Kaepernick** refused to stand for the National Anthem and Salute the Stars and Stripes in accordance with the American traditions described in the US Code. He stayed seated for the first four 49ers pre-season games last year.

Kaepernick finally got the national media's attention when he "took a knee" in late August. Contrary to popular opinion, there are no specific rules or regulations governing the NFL and its players about conduct during the National Anthem. Furthermore, penalties prescribed in the US Code for failing to stand were found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court decades ago.

Kaepernick said it was his way of protesting disparities in the lives of people of color, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of colour." Kaepernick is a supporter of the **Black**

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Lives Matter** movement. "To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way."

49ers officials told columnist **Peter King** that they believe Kaepernick preferred activism to playing football. However, Kaepernick told reporter **Dave Zirin** explicitly that he wanted to still play. Kaepernick opted out of a new 49er contract and become a free agent in March of this year. He hasn't had a firm offer since, even though he indicated that he will stand for the National Anthem in the coming season.

According to **USA Today** Sports reporter **Steven Ruiz**, "Colin Kaepernick has hope. **Joe Flacco**'s back injury, which will keep him out of action for three-to-six weeks, leaves the [Baltimore] **Ravens** with a massive hole on their quarterback depth chart heading into training camp, and Kaepernick has been discussed as an option to fill it."

President Trump jumped into the fray with his remarks at an Alabama rally two weeks ago this Friday for GOP Senator Luther Strange. "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son-of-a-bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired. He's fired! ... You know, some owner is going to do that. He's going to say, 'That guy that disrespects our flag, he's fired.' And that owner, they don't know it [but] they'll be the most popular person in this country."

Meanwhile, the NFL has apparently turned around, snowflaking about the ramifications of failing to agree with Kaepernick's stance on Black Lives Matter. Last week the **Green Bay Packers** beat the **Chicago Bears** 35-14 at Lambeau Field, but not before both teams stood arm-in-arm in supposed solidarity with Kaepernick.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Undaunted, Trump tweeted: "If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!"

There must be a lot of snowflaking going on around the country - latest NFL attendance and TV viewership are down some 17% since Kaepernick launched his campaign last year.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, October 9, 2017**

### Imagination

I don't remember my having a wild imagination when I was little ... only once. That was in the early '40s in the back yard of our home in Porterville, California ...

We take it up there from page 10 in my 2014 book *Caca Pasa*:

### **The Hand in the Door**

During World War II, the Navy was good to its commissioned officers and their families. My dad was given a 90 day TDY (temporary duty) for training at the VA Hospital in South Tucson, Arizona. Large with child, yet undaunted, mom drove from California to the Old Pueblo in the summer heat. Brother Billy was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson in August of 1943, midway through the TDY. A few weeks later Mama, baby Billy and I returned to Porterville, where we had lived since February of 1941 - and daddy went to sea.

After Billy turned one (I was a little over three at the time) he was in the back yard in one of those cage thingies moms keep their little ones in to help them stay out of trouble. The play-pen – yeah, that's it - was on the porch, elevated a few steps above the yard. As I recall, I was allowed out to play with my toys on the grass in the sun. Our mommy was inside doing mommy things and we were happy little campers playing outside in the fresh central California air.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

The back yard was surrounded by a six-foot wooden board fence, worn by the seasons to a rustic tan. At the right rear of the yard was an equally worn garage with a driveway running along behind the fence from the left. There was a door into the garage about two feet right of where the fence abutted the structure. It, too, was rustic and had what I recall was about three-quarters of an inch of space between the top of the door and the building.

Out of my peripheral vision I saw movement near the door in the garage. I turned and stared as four fingers made their way through the crack above the door. The hand felt around, back and forth across the crack, as if looking for a way into the yard. My dad wasn't home, so it wasn't him playing a joke on us. I was scared and I screamed for my mommy! I kept screaming and finally she came out of the back door. It seemed like an eternity, but there she was, looking concerned. Billy started crying and I ran to my mom and clung to her skirt, hiding. She asked what was wrong and I said there was a hand in the door to the garage.

She glanced toward the back of the yard and asked, "What hand, honey?"

I whispered, "The one on top of the door."

She looked and saw nothing. Mommy said, "Well, I don't see any hand, baby. It must be your imagination." She turned and went back into the house, leaving Billy and me again alone on the porch. I stayed close by the play-pen, guarding my little brother Billy.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

The incident scared the dickins out of me, yet that scary set of fingers never returned. Be that as it may, the hand in the door crack episode has stayed with me for a lifetime!

Now, in the later years of my life, I like to use my imagination to help come up with these twice-weekly stories. I like to try getting inside people's heads, imagining what they were thinking when some of today's Fake News was created. I can tell you that's a trip, troops!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

*Archie Bunker*

I was watching **MSNBC** or **CNBC** a little more than a week ago and was struck by a statement from the guest on the Sunday talk show. It wasn't **Maxine Waters**, California's 43rd District Rep. But, it might as well have been ...

This woman was advising the Democratic Party how to grow and win in the 2018 and 2020 election cycles. She said, and I paraphrase, "Democrats are the party of color, the party of black women ... and we need to stop trying to get back the **Archie Bunkers** of America."

Coming from a black politician, this struck me as a little strange. Of course, the Democrat Party is composed of minorities ... that goes without saying. But it's way more than blacks, black women, latinos, hispanics, native-Americans, gay people and the sexually challenged. The party still has a broad base composed of staunch Union members, construction workers, liberal government employees, progressive politicians and "community organizers." The Democrat Party makes "people of colour" feel like they make a difference. That's a good thing, but instead of excluding the Archie Bunkers of America, it needs to go get 'em back!

It is true that **Donald Trump** the candidate recognized the people he grew up with in Queens, New York - the ones who not only LOOK like Archie Bunker, they TALK like him! Theirs is an attitude that isn't just found in New York and New Jersey ... it's essential to the workings of middle America ... represented by all the **Joe Arpaio**s and Archie Bunkers across the USA.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

These are the hardest-working, most patriotic people on the face of the earth! These are the folks who have been driven from the Democrat Party by the progressive drivel and political faldernal foisted on them by the liberal establishment. These folks, once-upon-a-time, were called the **Great Silent Majority** by President **Richard Nixon**. They helped elect him back in the day ... but even though **John Kennedy** was assassinated in 1963, they were wooed away in 1969 by the then-conservative Democrats. Ever since that time, though, the party has moved farther and farther to the left, leaving the core of America's working-class wondering how in Heaven's Name President **Barack Obama** ever got elected.

These people are the old-timey, hard-core, working-class Democrats. These are the men and women who built this country. These are the folks who sweated and strained to build the great mining communities across the country taking coal, iron, copper, aluminum and oil out of the ground to build the greatest infrastructure ever created on earth. These are the people who built the railroads and the super-highways across this great country. These are the patriots who saved the world - in two tragic wars and numerous horrific skirmishes around the globe - from domination by fascist dictators. These are the Americans abandoned by their Party in favor of incomprehensible greed and avarice on the part of many of the candidates they worked so hard to elect over the years.

The talk-show quote was, "*Democrats are the party of color, the party of black women ... and we need to stop trying to get back the Archie Bunkers of America.*" The Great Silent Majority composed of the **Clint Eastwoods**, **Sam Elliotts**, **Joe Arpaio**s and **Archie Bunkers** from all around the United States of America has taken back its birth-right. These folks are not buying that Progressive garbage any more.

Today's Dem leadership doesn't have a clue!



## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Maxine Waters herself needs to take this message to DNC Chairman **Tom Perez**: *At least former Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz understood how to get Democrats to work together!*

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, October 16, 2017**

### Oldliness

I came up with another one of those strange words that just pops into your head.

**Oldliness!** (Old-lee-ness) When one stops hoppin' and-a boppin' and tearin' it up!

Oldliness is a new state of mind that comes with age ... mostly retirement. A person has reached oldliness when fishing, hunting or golf become less sport and more interesting ways to while away the hours when work is not necessary.

It's the time in a person's life when it doesn't matter that the sink has a lotta dishes in it. You've got all the time in the world to do the dishes - and there is time to decide whether to do them manually, one-a-time or stuff 'em in the dishwasher and pull the trigger! It's pretty much the same with vacuuming and dusting, mowing the lawn, washing the car, planting those bulbs in the garden or sweeping the porch. About the only thing that won't wait is cleaning out the cat-box!

Oldliness happens when you're content to sit in your rocker without the TV going, sorta doin' nothin' just for the heck of it. It's the same thing that happens when you sit out on the porch (swept or not), just watchin' the world go by.

Oldliness is realizing that you don't have to keep a schedule. You don't need that alarm clock to wake you up anymore - heck, you already wake up at six o'clock every morning anyway! And any day you please, you can roll over and sleep

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

in! Speaking of sleep ... nap-time is not by the clock, either. If you'd like a nap, you get to choose - will it be a snooze in the rocker or flop down on the bed or the couch? One word: Ahhhhhh ...

Only problem with oldliness is some people don't get to experience it. There are those poor souls who, due to infirmity or unfortunate circumstances, can't stop and smell the roses. Oldliness is a state of mind that *There, but for the grace of God, go I* ... and along with it comes thankfulness and grace.

As old age comes creepin' up on us, we must all strive to be worthy of the gift of oldliness, and bask in it for as long as it lasts ... being ever mindful that the grim reaper can bring that happiness to a halt in a matter of seconds. But then, even in death, we can fool the reaper with the bliss that comes to those who believe in the hereafter, accept a life's wages of the *Corn* of nourishment, the *Wine* of refreshment, and the *Oil* of joy (peace, harmony, and strength), and can look forward to the love of God, eternal, in the Heavens.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, October 19, 2017**

### *Open Letter to NFL Players*

A friend sent this to me earlier this week. It was written by **Anonymous** and published in **Sharon Rondeau's The Post and Mail** on September 26th. I think it's worth repeating:

"GROW UP AND ACT LIKE MEN"

"You graduated high school in 2011. Your teenage years were a struggle. You grew up on the wrong side of the tracks. Your mother was the leader of the family and worked tirelessly to keep a roof over your head and food on your plate. Academics were a struggle for you and your grades were mediocre at best. The only thing that made you stand out is you weighed 225 lbs. and could run 40 yards in 4.2 seconds while carrying a football.

"Your best friend was just like you, except he didn't play football. Instead of going to football practice after school, he went to work at McDonalds for minimum wage. You were recruited by all the big colleges and spent every weekend of your senior year making visits to universities where coaches and boosters tried to convince you their school was best. They laid out the red carpet for you. Your best friend worked double shifts at Mickey D's. College was not an option for him. On the day you signed with Big State University, your best friend signed paperwork with his Army recruiter. You went to summer workouts. He went to basic training.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

"You spent the next four years living in the athletic dorm, eating at the training table. You spent your Saturdays on the football field, cheered on by adoring fans. Tutors attended to your every academic need. You attended class when you felt like it. Sure, you worked hard. You lifted weights, ran sprints, studied plays, and soon became one of the top football players in the country. Your best friend was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. While you were in college, he deployed to Iraq once and Afghanistan twice. He became a Sergeant and led a squad of 19 year old soldiers who grew up just like he did. He shed his blood in Afghanistan and watched young American's give their lives, limbs, and innocence for the USA.

"You went to the NFL combine and scored off the charts. You hired an agent and waited for draft day. You were drafted in the first round and your agent immediately went to work, ensuring that you received the most money possible. You signed for \$16 million although you had never played a single down of professional football. Your best friend re-enlisted in the Army for four more years. As a combat tested sergeant, he will be paid \$32,000 per year.

"You will drive a Ferrari on the streets of South Beach. He will ride in the back of a Blackhawk helicopter with 10 other combat loaded soldiers. You will sleep at the Ritz. He will dig a hole in the ground and try to sleep. You will 'make it rain' in the club. He will pray for rain as the temperature reaches 120 degrees.

"On Sunday, you will run into a stadium as tens of thousands of fans cheer and yell your name. For your best friend, there is little difference between Sunday

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

and any other day of the week. There are no adoring fans. There are only people trying to kill him and his soldiers. Every now and then, he and his soldiers leave the front lines and 'go to the rear' to rest. He might be lucky enough to catch an NFL game on TV. When the National Anthem plays and you take a knee, he will jump to his feet and salute the television. While you protest the unfairness of life in the United States, he will give thanks to God that he has the honor of defending his great country.

"To the players of the NFL: We are the people who buy your tickets, watch you on TV, and wear your jerseys. We anxiously wait for Sundays so we can cheer for you and marvel at your athleticism. Although we love to watch you play, we care little about your opinions until you offend us. You have the absolute right to express yourselves, but we have the absolute right to boycott you. We have tolerated your drug use and DUIs, your domestic violence, and your vulgar displays of wealth. We should be ashamed for putting our admiration of your physical skills before what is morally right. But now you have gone too far. You have insulted our flag, our country, our soldiers, our police officers, and our veterans. You are living the American dream, yet you disparage our great country.

"I am done with NFL football and encourage all like minded Americans to boycott the NFL as well. Millionaire spoiled brats deserve neither our respect nor sympathy. Grow up and act like men instead of puppets of the radical left who hate America."

Somewhere along the line, a note was added to my friend's Email. It reads as follows:

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

*National boycott of the NFL for Sunday November 12th,  
Veterans Day Weekend.*

*Boycott all football telecast, all fans, all ticket holders, stay  
away from attending any games, let them play to empty  
stadiums. Pass this post along to all your friends and family.  
Honor our military, some of whom come home with the  
American Flag draped over their coffin.*

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

**Monday, October 23, 2017**

## **Are These the End Times?**

I'm pretty much an optimist who believes that just about everything works out for the best. Even the worst. But of late, it seems like there is just so much gloom and doom afoot, someone not versed in the ways of positive-thinking could easily be predicting the end times are close. Really? It feels like the bad stuff has been ramping up almost exponentially. Let's take a look at the headlines and see:

### **North Korea's Kim Jong-un threatening Nuclear War**

North Korea has been making mischief for decades. One crew member was killed and 82 others captured on January 23, 1968 when the USS Pueblo was taken in international waters off North Korea. The "Pueblo Incident" happened one week before the infamous Viet Nam Tet Offensive, three days after twelve NK troops crossed the DeMilitarized Zone and killed 26 South Koreans in a failed attempt to take the South's Executive Mansion. The Pueblo remains held in Pyongyang as a museum still a commissioned US Navy vessel. It took eleven months to get the Pueblo's tortured and beaten crew back to the United States. In 2010, the North launched a tiny satellite atop a three-stage missile on its way to the goal of being able to deliver a nuclear strike on the United States. There have been numerous missile tests, underground Uranium-fueled bomb tests, and one purported to involve a Plutonium bomb under the regimes of Kim Jong-il and his successor Kim Jong-un. Jong-un has threatened to attack the United States ... first Guam, then Hawaii, Alaska and the West Coast, and then Washington. In response, US President Donald Trump, in a speech at the UN, threatened to "totally destroy North Korea" if his country is forced to defend itself



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

or its allies. Russia followed suit after China vowed to assist US. Danger, Will Robinson!

### **China wants Taiwan, Singapore and the South China Sea**

At the end of World War II, the Republic of China (ROC) took control of Taiwan. In 1949, however, after losing control of the mainland in a civil war, the ROC withdrew to Taiwan and Chiang Kai-shek declared martial law. Since that time, according to Wikipedia, Taiwan has developed steadily into a major international trading power with more than \$218 billion in two-way trade and one of the highest foreign exchange reserves in the world. Tremendous prosperity on the island was accompanied by economic and social stability. Taiwan's phenomenal economic development earned it a spot as one of the "Four Asian Tigers." Needless to say, mainland China would like a piece of that action. Meanwhile, on October 3rd, 1990 China and Singapore established diplomatic relations. Singapore, once a British Colony, was part of Malaya until China and Malasia developed diplomatic ties and recognized it as a nation-state. Singapore was the last country in South East Asia to formally recognize the PRC. Singapore still maintains unofficial relations with the Republic of China, including the continuation of a controversial military training and facilities agreement from 1975. Three-quarters of Singapore's population is from mainland China, another reason for the Chinese to covet making it a part of the ROC. The South China Sea (The Second Persian Sea), a huge area claimed by the PRC, covers most of the area that includes the economic zone claims of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Although a United Nations arbitration tribunal at The Hague ruled July 12th 2016 against the PRC's maritime claims, China declared the finding unenforceable and embarked on a program of artificial island building. Today, the greatest threat to peace in the South China Sea is revealed in satellite images showing

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

missile shelters and radar and communications facilities being built on the Fiery Cross, Mischief and Subi Reefs in the Spratly Islands. Could this be more dangerous than North Korea's sabre-rattling?

### **Hurricane Cat 4 Harvey**

The area around Houston, Texas was inundated by Hurricane Harvey over the week of August 25th with five FEET (60 inches) of rain ... the most precipitation from one weather event in US history. The storm took the lives of 60 people in 11 counties, roughly half in Houston's Harris County. Knowledgeable authorities estimated that damages from high winds and flooding alone could exceed \$60 Billion.

### **Earthquake 8.1**

A monster earthquake hit Oaxaca on Sep 8th. Its amplitude matched the second largest in Mexican history, which occurred under Mexico City on September 19, 1985. The largest earthquake ever recorded in Mexico was an 8.6 on March 28, 1787, also in Oaxaca. The September 8th quake took 96 lives and caused untold Billions in damages.

### **Hurricane Cat 4 Irma**

Florida's Miami Herald reported 75 deaths from September 10th Hurricane Irma - and the most damage in the state's history. Hurricane Katrina, which battered the Gulf Coast in 2005, caused damages of some \$160 billion in today's dollars, according to NOAA. Harvey and Irma together will probably come in between \$150 and \$200 Billion in damages.

### **Earthquake 7.1**

USGS predicted up to 1,000 fatalities will come from the

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

September 19th earthquake near Puebla south of Mexico City, with an economic impact between \$1 and \$10 Billion. As of September 20th, at least 217 people had been killed, including 86 in Mexico City, 71 in Morelos and 43 in Puebla state.

### **Hurricane Cat 4 Maria**

The US island-territory of Puerto Rico was literally leveled on Sep 20th by Hurricane Maria, causing the most non-war-related infrastructure damage in history. The island's power grid was completely obliterated. Even though hundreds of FEMA personnel were pre-positioned with shelters, clothing, water and provisions, the storm completely overwhelmed the territory's ability to deal with the aftermath. A hospital ship was sent to help the injured, thousands of troops from the Army, Navy and Marines were dispatched to help clear the infrastructure so food, fuel and medical care could make it into the mostly rural country. Some residents of the interior went as long as five days before potable water was available. According to the AP on October 3rd, Gov. Ricardo Rossello of Puerto Rico said he believes the island accrued more than \$90 billion worth of damages due to the storm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has more than 10,000 federal officials on the ground and 45 percent of people have access to drinking water. 34 deaths have been attributed to the record-breaking cyclonic storm.

### **Hurricane Cat 1 Nate**

Residents of Louisiana and Mississippi hunkered down on October 7th and 8th as Hurricane Nate made landfall. No storm-related deaths or injuries were immediately reported in the United States, but Nate left at least 22 people dead in Central America. The tropical depression dropped between two and five inches of rain across Florida and Georgia before

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

moving into the southern Appalachian Mountains and dropping more rain on the Ohio Valley and continuing on through the Northeast.

### **Las Vegas Mass Murders**

The night of October 1st, a shooter on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel opened fire on a Country Music concert crowd of some 20,000 gathered in an entertainment venue on the Las Vegas Strip, killing 58 and injuring 546. Wikipedia says that the Route 91 Harvest country music festival is held annually at Las Vegas Village, a 15-acre lot on the Las Vegas Strip used for outdoor performances. The venue is 490 yards from the Mandalay Bay hotel in Paradise, Nevada diagonally across the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Mandalay Bay Road. The shooter, Stephen Paddock of Mesquite Nevada, killed himself after firing literally thousands of rounds at the crowd over a ten-minute period. It was the single-most deadly mass-murder launched by an individual in American history.

### **California Fires**

In October alone, wildfires claimed 42 lives, scorched over 245,000 acres of public and private land, and leveled some 5,700 structures state-wide. Fires in Northern California's Sacramento Foothills and Wine Country were declared the worst in history after burning most of the city of Santa Rosa (and its fire department!) as well as most of the surrounding landscape. They say it will take decades to return areas inundated by the Fall 2017 California wildfires back to normal, if ever. Since the 2017 wildfire season began in July, 7,980 fires have burned 1,046,995 acres, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

I can't tell you that these are the End Times. Only God knows when the Rapture will come. It all depends on whether you're an optimist or a pessimist. Myself? I prefer to wait a while more ... perhaps when the Dow dips to its March 5, 2009 bottom of 6,594. Can you imagine a 70% drop from today's 23-thousand some-odd? Now, I'm not predicting impending doom here, troops ... but something like that might get your attention!

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**Thursday, October 26, 2017**

## **A Dem Tax Plan?**

A note arrived in the email last week. It was from the Democratic National Committee. It quoted **Elizabeth Warren** - you remember her - Pocahontas, natural heir to Hillary Clinton's Throne?

I had to write something in reply because it wasn't any more than a blatant fundraising attempt. My reply to the DNC was rejected after 21 hours waiting for delivery at secureserver.net. So, I said to myself, "Self - let's just put it out there for the world to read."

### **"Note to the National Democrat Party leadership:**

"I hate to keep harping on this, but Dems must develop a positive approach to political issues. Warren is quoted saying:

'Not one penny in tax cuts for the wealthy and giant corporations – especially not on the backs of everyone else. We will fight back against this GOP tax plan.'

"How abysmally STUPID!

"Wanna beat the GOP? Lose the negative language – NOT, ESPECIALLY NOT, FIGHT BACK AGAINST – where are the positive rallying cries? This is why Hillary lost, for cryin' out loud!

"How about this:

"The Democratic tax plan will raise income taxes on the largest corporations and the richest among us, while reducing taxes on America's blue-collar

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

working class and small businesses by increasing the highest tax rate to 75% and the lowest to zero! American needs just four tax brackets to keep our economy growing and healthy: zero, 15, 25 and 75. Right now about 50% of Americans pay no income taxes. The truth is everyone should be paying their fair share, even the poorest among us – and, believe it or not, we do! People have a hard time counting on their fingers and toes the names of all the taxes EVERYONE pays ... whatever their financial status! Take this to the bank: Democrats will see that everyone gets credit for the taxes they pay every day at the gas pump, the grocery store and the coffee shop down the street. The Democrats' plan will have everyone paying their fair share, growing America's economy, and helping not just the least among us, but all of us!

"DEMOCRATS DO HAVE A PLAN ... Right?"

Y'know, other than for one, I've never gotten a reply from any national Democrat leader, Senator or Congressperson, even though I paid long nine years of dues as the Gila County Arizona Democrat Party Vice-Chair. The only prominent nationally-recognized Democrat with whom I've traded both snail-mail and email and in-person chat is the 21st Governor of the State of Arizona, former US Secretary of Homeland Security under President Barack Obama and President of the University system of California since 2013 , **Janet Napolitano**.

Too bad. If the party leadership can't stay in touch with those of us who have served, there's no way on earth they can ever expect to grow it back into that once-upon-a-time political power-house.

### Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

In other off-the-wall political stuff: Tuesday morning the President was invited to lunch with members of congress working on the tax legislation. It was a switch ... he's invited members of congress to the White House for lunch in the past. As expected, after the luncheon, Republican legislators including Senate Majority leader **Mitch McConnell** gave all kinds of rosy statements for the press corps in the hallway. Also, as expected, Senate Minority leader **Chuck Schumer** aligned with Republican **Bob Corker** in calling President Trump "utterly untruthful." Corker had announced earlier that he would not be running for re-election. Trump tweeted that Corker "couldn't get elected dog-catcher." Not to be outdone, Arizona Senator **Jeff Flake** announced the he, too, would not be running for re-election. Flake joins John McCain, who announced early this year that he wouldn't re-up.

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Monday, October 30, 2017

## The Tennessee Waltz

Claudette and I were listening to audio tracks on the computer/stereo the other evening and a memorable old tune came up ...

Listening to the record player is way cool ... yeah, we have an original ... by Pioneer with a Sure M44E cartridge. But kicking back and letting the computer play tunes recorded over the years is so excellent! Our computer feeds tunes to a Pioneer SX-727 stereo receiver pushing 80 watts per channel into a pair of 80 watt Fisher speaker systems, and three theatre speakers mounted over the movie screen ... as well as the speaker system that came with our Park Model mobile home.

One of the things I learned from YouTube came from this video of Frank Sinatra ... contrary to what you may have seen on tv lately, he's the guy who invented the mike drop! Watch: <https://youtu.be/DAacUTsOjv4>

Or ... you could download Patti Page's monster 1948 hit. Here's the original version of The Tennessee Waltz ... with video and lyrics: <https://youtu.be/-XCvfy6Huyc>

Here's an alternate film version from 1956: <https://youtu.be/44B6B1OycgI>

Here she is at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ for PBS in 2004: <https://youtu.be/vngPwvi4QVA>

Don't mean to beat a dead horse, but here's her Hits Album: [https://youtu.be/z1aTQoM\\_YiM](https://youtu.be/z1aTQoM_YiM)

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Not to be out-done, along come the McGuire Sisters from that PBS fundraiser in 2004:

<https://youtu.be/8ys1XYmL51A>

The thing about YouTube is you can turn it on, pick a tune and just let it play. Think of a tune (or an artist), type it in your search engine and pick one that suits you. What's more, you can record the tunes from YouTube into your music library. (Copyright law allows for your private use only.) This gettin' old is FUN sometimes!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, November 2, 2017**

### **Unity?**

Well, it started with Arizona's John McCain, the American war hero, when he announced he would not be running for another term. In July he revealed he had brain cancer.

Although McCain initially voted to uphold the Bill to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Healthcare Act, he later decided to vote against Partial Repeal and the "Skinny" Repeal. It was Rand Paul who teamed up with eight other Republicans to queer the original deal. Partial Repeal did not pass because of McCain, Collins, Murkowski, Heller Alexander, Capito and Portman. The "Skinny" Bill failed only because McCain, MurKowski and Collins voted Nay. Not even the Vice-President's aye vote would have helped.

Senator Bob Corker, one of the nine who voted against the Repeal and Relace bill, has announced that he, too, will not run for re-election. What's more, Arizona's other Senator, Jeff Flake has thrown in the towel ... he will not run for re-election, just like McCain. If these three guys stick together, there is no way the Republican agenda can get through the congress without being gutted by the well-organized Democrat minority. This is the election agenda that sustained a House majority and elected a Senate majority, not to mention the President of the Unites States. Yet three Republicans are willing to throw in the towel and give Senate control to the minority party (with help from a few others) because they're offended by the way politics has changed since they were first elected. Yes, Corker, Flake and McCain are American Republican icons ... but I'm afraid they will go down in history as the Republican turn-coats who turned Congress over to the entrenched elites.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Some will say that Steve Bannon is the reason they all have tossed it in. Although Senator Flake voted for all three versions of the ACA Bill, he's still one of the three never-Trumpers that Bannon and his organization have targeted for defeat in 2018. You can bet the nine who voted against the Bill will be targets for Bannon's "Remove and Replace." They include Susan Collins of Main, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Nevada's Dean Heller, Bob Corker of Tennessee, Tom Cotton of Arkansas, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham, Mike Lee of Utah and Jerry Moran of Kansas.

Over in the House of Representatives, prominent member Jason Jaffetz announced in April that he would not be seeking re-election in 2018. Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania announced on October 4th that he'd not be seeking re-election. Ohio's Patrick Tiberi announced his intent in May. He said in mid-October that he'd be resigning.

Democrats are foaming at the mouth over their prospects of re-taking the Senate. The House could be doable with the loss of the three Republicans and six other members of the GOP who will be retiring in 2019. Pundits are predicting that the Democrats could gain as many as 33 House seats in 2018. The clock is running.

Speaking of time ... we switch to Standard Time at 2:00 a.m. this Sunday, November 5th. The West goes back to three hours ahead of the East Coast. Mountain time will be two hours ahead and folks living in the Central Time Zone will be just one hour before Eastern Standard Time. For years, Salem Oregon did not subscribe to Daylight Savings. But now, everybody's clocks get set **BACK** one hour this Sunday except for folks in Arizona and Hawaii - who get an extra hour of sleep. Remember: "Spring Forward - **Fall Back.**"

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Monday, November 6, 2017**

### **Heal Thyself**

There are plenty of stories out there about people who supposedly willed things to happen. There are also plenty of reports poo-poo-ing such things. Well, here's one of those stories.

Management of an R&D facility at the University of Arizona was my job in the early '80s. It wasn't anything spectacular ... just a good challenge in every way. Including getting there. One could take the stairs or the elevator to the job. I liked the stairs before lunch ... after that, not so much.

One morning, as I mounted the last stair, there was this wrenching pain just above the inside of my left knee. I was like something had "plucked" a tendon or something in there - like a harp or a guitar string. Yow! What a shock! I almost fell, it hurt so bad ... but the hand-rail helped me slowly stand upright. I felt the area just above the joint of my Femur and there was a little bump there that I had never noticed before. Maybe about the size of a marble.

Once at my desk, I called my doctor and asked for an appointment. We scheduled one for that afternoon at Tucson's Thomas-Davis Clinic. I showed him where the problem was and he poked and probed around the spot. It didn't hurt, but you could tell something wasn't right. He sent me upstairs to Radiology where they took a couple of views.

There were some oos and ahhs when they got the film developed - not more than a few minutes passed before they put the x-ray film up on the viewer. Here was this "thing" just above the knee-joint ... looked sorta like a mushroom. They

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

gave me the films in a big tan envelope and sent me on my way back downstairs to the doctor's office.

The Doc did some oohing and ahing of his own before making his pronouncement. "You have a bone spur," he said. "It's been growing there for some time and when the tendon has been passing over it, it has been smoothing the top over and created the 'mushroom'. It finally got big enough that the tendon can catch on it, and bingo! There are two things we can do," he explained, "We can leave it alone to smooth over by itself and you can be careful how you step ... or we can go in with a hammer and chisel and take it out that way."

I was not too enamored of the idea of a hammer and chisel inside my leg so I opted for doing nothing for a while. Doctor Allan said that was a good choice and that I'd know when or if we needed the surgical procedure. With that, I went back to work.

I was seventeen and a Senior at Monterey Union High School in California when I learned self-hypnosis. There was no real reason for it other than I was always a little hyper and was looking for a way to settle down some. A friend suggested seeing this Shrink in Pacific Grove. His office was an older ginger-bread house on an obscure corner of Grand Avenue.

After some preliminary trading of information, we got to work. He had me take off my shoes and lie down on my back on this couch about the size of a twin bed. He had me close my eyes, put my arms next to my body with the palms down, take a few deep breaths - exhaling slowly - and just relax. During the first session, he had me repeat after him a routine that would induce hypnosis.

The second session was much like the first, but instead of saying the instructions out loud, I was told to think them. The

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

third and final session he taught me to visualize the tiny little "guys" in my body ... the ones who fix every-day bumps and bruises as well as illnesses and injuries. These are the body's cells that promote health and well-being in all humans.

The first order of business was the deep breathing and relaxing. Then started the chit-chat. "My toes are beginning to feel warm and relaxed ... yes, warm and relaxed." Three times, slowly. Next it was, "Now, my feet are starting to feel warm and relaxed ... yes, nice and warm and relaxed." Again, three times, slowly. That was followed three times in order by ankles, shins, knees, thighs, hips ... then fingers, palms, wrists, arms and elbows, and finally tummy, chest, shoulders and neck. By this time my whole body was feeling warm and cozy and relaxed.

Next came the self-hypnosis part. I was to say to myself, "Now, I can feel my 'little guys' going to work fixing all my bumps and bruises and aches and pains. My little guys are taking care of my body and fixing it up. C'mon, little guys ... nice and easy and relaxing." This also is repeated three times. Finally, the capper, "Now, my whole body is feeling warm and relaxed. When I wake up, I'll feel relaxed and rested and refreshed. Yes ... relaxed, rested and refreshed." That was repeated three times, followed by, "Now, we will count slowly from ten to one and when we wake up we'll be relaxed and rested and refreshed. Ten ... nine ... eight ..." And so it went. The Shrink said that it was not unusual to actually fall asleep during the process, but that I'd actually wake up relaxed and refreshed.

I asked the Shrink how much I owed him after the third session. He allowed as how he had never taught a tenn-ager self-hypnosis, so it ought to be on the house. The payment, he said, was the satisfaction knowing he could teach young people as well as adults.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

We were talking earlier about my adventure with a mushroom-shaped bone spur on my left Femur, inside, just above the knee. I remembered being taught self-hypnosis when I was a kid and decided to give it a try. After all, it had only been twenty-some-odd years since I learned how.

A few months later, I returned to Doctor Allen's office in the Thomas-Davis Clinic. After another couple of x-rays were done, we both marveled at the results. I had been successful in "willing" by body to repair itself. The bone spur had faded into a tiny blip where once there loomed a mushroom, just waiting to pluck that nearby tendon.

I come from hearty Arizona stock. My mom's relatives settled north-central Arizona. They all lived long and productive lives. She passed away in her late 90s. My father loosely subscribed to the ideals of Christian Science and except for an occasional case of the sniffles, was never sick a day in his life. He died of liver cancer which had metastasized from a prostate procedure. He was in his early eighties when he passed. I think he may have been the reason I learned self-hypnosis. It's been something I've used all my life to keep my body "in order."

Doctor Lissa Rankin was the presenter at a TEDx talk in mid-December of 2012. Early in the presentation she asks if people really can use their mind to heal themselves. She answers in the affirmative and goes on to claim that the medical establishment has recognized "mind over matter" for some sixty years. You can watch her presentation on YouTube [HERE](#).

*TED began as a small conference in Monterey, California. That single conference is now three annual events - TED, TEDActive and TEDGlobal - as well as occasional deep-dive*



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*conferences and events such as TEDWomen, TEDYouth and TEDIndia.*

So, did I "will" the cure the for my condition? You be the judge.

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Thursday, November 9, 2017

## The Importance of Thank You

A dear friend of mine posted a note on Facebook about a week-and-a-half ago. It's an important observation that really hits home. My dad taught me many decades ago, "If someone gives you something, tell them Thank You." An unsolicited gift always deserves a kind remark in response - at the very least. Here is her post - word for word:

*"So I just have to say something that has been an issue with me for years. A friend bought up how she received a thank you card recently. People underestimate how much thank you cards mean. If a person has gone out of their way for you, a quick thank you note goes a long way. I have made tons of baby quilts. Out of the joy of my heart. However, if I don't receive a thank you note/card I won't make a second baby quilt. People give hours, love and their own hard earned money to make a gift, saying thank you is such a little thing that goes a long way. I ALWAYS remember those that do and those that don't. No offense meant. Just another thing this generation seems to have lost."*

A kind word is always welcome. One delivered with a big grin is even more welcome. There is something few people understand about kindness ... it's a multiplier. There is an ancient proverb - some attribute it to scripture - *Whatever you give freely will be returned ten-fold*. There are many among us who can attest to the truth of that saying. This is not about the intrinsic value of a gift and certainly not about making someone feel obligated. Rather, it involves the warm feelings imparted to both the giver and the recipient. Those two little words can mean more than all the gold in Fort Knox when

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uttered sincerely. It helps to understand that simply thanking God for one's blessings is appreciated more than you know.

So, thank you.

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Monday, November 13, 2017

## Win the Korean Konflikt

There has to be a way to get **Kim Jong-un** to knock off the nonsense with missiles and nuclear tests and such. I may have hit upon an answer, much by accident, while playing around on YouTube.

Here was this goofy looking Korean guy, prancing around in a video made before **Kim Jong-il** had died. Actually, it may have been the reason he died! It was a world-wide phenomenon that did him in! Jong-il spoke just enough English to understand the words and it made him crazy! Heyyyyy, sexy lady!

I think that may be the answer to how to get Kim Jong-un to chill out some. All we gotta do is send **Psy** to the DMZ, turn on the giant loudspeakers located there, and let him do it ***Gangnam Style*** (Open Condom Star)!

Here ... you be the judge: <https://youtu.be/9bZkp7q19f0>

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

### **Bank On It!**

Getting old isn't hard ... all you gotta do is stick around - you'll get there eventually. You might not recognize when old age has finally crept up on you, though, because many old people can't remember stuff from one day to the next.

Just the other day, Claudette and I were talking when she lost her train of thought. It was an event to ponder. Perhaps it just came uncoupled, I'd been working on the computer at the time, so she quipped, "I drew a blank in my memory bank!" For some reason, I thought she was just a little overdrawn.

Claudette has been plagued with all the things that make getting older something of a chore. Arthritis, COPD, shakey legs, thyroid and kidney problems ... and at least a thousand different pills to keep track of ... and like me, she forgets stuff! She's getting a lot better lately, because of her meds and some changes in her (our) diet. Now, if she could just stop falling down! And she's not even a drinker!

Even I, friendly lovable Terrible Ted (no kin to Tucson's kindly loveable Doctor Scar), have had a few problems of late. I burnt the soup! Yes - I did! Now, you tell me - how do you burn soup?

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. That makes me nervous. My sister invited Claudette and me to have thanksgiving dinner at her place north of Sonoita, Arizona. Of course, the answer was yes! Hey - free food, no dishes to do, overnight at La Quinta - who could turn that down?

About a week later sister Mandy did it. Let me get this quote exactly correct, "Would you consider saying the blessing for

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

our Thanksgiving meal?" For many years the eldest male in attendance has said the blessing ... unless my brother Bill said it.

Do you realize that once-upon-a-time I could recite the 23rd Psalm? Now, if I'm gonna give it for Thanksgiving, I'll have to use cheater-cards! With big print!

Billy is a past Master of Epes-Randolph Masonic Lodge #32 in Tucson. He's versed in the art of addressing small throngs. Give him the option of the Thanksgiving Prayer and you've got an instant sixty second sermon from the Mount! Me? Not so much.

I wish I could remember just half of Mary Maxwell's invocation at the 2012 Aging in America Conference in Washington DC. Watch it here:  
<https://youtu.be/RqeSqjvN84g>

Enjoy!

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Monday, November 20, 2017

## A Well Regulated Militia

"A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." That's it - the Second Amendment to the US Constitution.

The **US Supreme Court** was to meet in conference November 9th to decide what cases they want to hear next. There is one hearing that may appear on the justices' conference calendar that will no doubt be a pivotal Second Amendment case: *Kolbe v. Hogan*. Four circuit courts have debated bans on "assault" weapons and large-capacity magazines. They all upheld gun-control legislation, and in so doing, they adopted three different standards for judging the constitutionality of the laws under the Second Amendment and the Supreme Court's *Heller* decision.

The *Kolbe* case majority opinion concluded that "*banned assault weapons and large-capacity magazines are not constitutionally protected arms.*" This flies in the face of the High Court's *Heller* decision: "*whether the law bans types of firearms commonly used for a lawful purpose.*" According to **The Federalist's Margot Cleveland**, "With AR-15 and AK-47-styled rifles accounting for approximately 20 percent of gun sales in the United States, those 'assault' weapons definitely qualify as 'commonly used' within the meaning of *Heller*." The SCOTUS cannot possibly let the *Kolbe* assertion be substituted for the Second Amendment.

I have long contended that the Second Amendment protects all American citizens' right to "keep and bear" (or possess) arms of any kind to be able to protect themselves, their

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

families and their communities. Limits on who can be the beneficiaries of this right have always been found lawful. The basis for drawing that line is the National Crime Information System - NCIS - the database used by the FBI for background checks on folks looking to purchase firearms.

Not long ago, the Arizona Legislature made it lawful to conceal- and open-carry firearms without a permit to do so. I overheard the other day one of the results of that legislation. The story goes that an investigator from another state had called the Arizona Department of Public Safety inquiring about a weapon belonging to a suspect they had in custody. They wanted to know if the gun was registered to the suspect. DPS told the investigator, "Sorry, but we don't keep a gun registration database in Arizona. Anybody except felons can carry without registration. They just need to pass a background check to purchase a firearm here." The out-of-state investigator was incredulous!

Both Arizona and Florida have seen their crime rates drop since they enacted their no permit required concealed- and open-carry laws. Criminals don't know who's packin' so armed assaults and robberies are way down. Even property crimes are down based on news stories of armed moms and little old ladies protecting their own with heavy firepower!

Where the Supreme Court will come down on all this could make history.

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## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Thursday, November 23, 2017**

### **Happy Thanksgiving**

Can you believe it's actually Thanksgiving - again? And it's gonna be Black Friday again - tomorrow? And after that it's gonna be 31 days 'til Christmas? How many of them, for you, will be shopping days? Good grief, Charlie Brown! Old age just keeps creepin' up on me!

Have you noticed ... the older you get, the faster the days go by? Jeepers - I remember grammar school and high school ... seven hours of school (8am to 3pm) seemed to drag on forever! Although it included lunch and two recesses, we looked forward to our play time afterwards. I kinda miss play time.

It took about 15 minutes to get home from school and we had to be in the house by 5:00pm to clean up. My best friend had a big RCA color TV and a bunch of us used to go down the street to his house to watch the Mickey Mouse Club. We all thought Annette was hot!

My mom was always a stickler when it came to schedules ... there was to be no dilly-dallying. Dinner was at 5:30 sharp! After that it was doing the dishes. With one brother and one sister, at least I got to choose - wash, dry or put them away. We got pretty efficient at it because the sooner we finished the sooner we could go out and play.

The schedule included homework at 8:00pm Sunday through Thursday. And the Ed Sullivan Show on Sunday nights. When Elvis was on the Sullivan Show we all went to the church and watched the show. They made a big deal about it to attract us kids for a little late Sunday School and popcorn.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Friday and Saturday evenings were (for me) for Junior Assemblies, Cotillion, DeMolay, Boy Scouts, school events like the swim team, ball games and dances, activities at the Youth Center, and parties thrown by friends. Cokes and "Spin-the-bottle" were always things to look forward to - that always lead to slow-dancing and makin' out.

How many Thanksgivings were there? As far back as I can remember Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were at 3:00pm sharp. Although my mom and dad have since passed, dinner this year will be at my sister's place south of Tucson ... promptly at three-o'clock! And as tradition dictates, there will be a prayer of Thanksgiving with friends and family holding hands around the table. Thankfulness for food, friends and family ... and the blessings we all share in common.

Even the bleakest and blackest days have a glimmer of hope for which to be thankful. So, even though tomorrow is Black Friday, Christmas is just around the corner and Easter will be upon us in the blink of an eye, I'm content that old age will somehow be kind to us all, no matter our situation or station in life.

Those were the days my friend. We thought they'd never end.  
We'd sing and dance forever and a day.  
We'd live the life we choose. We'd fight and never lose.  
For we were young and sure to have our way ...

[https://youtu.be/k0htb8i\\_qOU](https://youtu.be/k0htb8i_qOU)

This is also a Russian song Дорогой длинною ...

<https://youtu.be/2y4pdH12xDM>

L'chaim! Have a happy Thanksgiving!

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Monday, November 27, 2017

## Culinary Experimentation

I was just wondering how many people have been the victims of culinary experimentation at the hands of their mothers? Mine was a doozie! She had a subscription to *Sunset* magazine!

My wife had a perpetual subscription to *Sunset* - a Christmas gift from my mom. I couldn't get away from it! Oh, and let's not forget *Better Homes and Gardens*!

There was one time Claudette whomped up what was billed as a really tasty dinner in her latest magazine. She labored over it for what seemed like hours! When time came to sit down to this fine repast, I took a fork-full, yummed it up, looked at her across the table and said, "Would you like me to go get a few McDonald's hamburgers?" She replied, "Great idea. I don't like it either."

Claudette and I will have been married 56 years next January 13th. She's a wonderful cook and prides herself with her culinary prowess after many years of learning from the *Betty Crocker* and *Boston Cooking School* Cookbooks. She's suffering some of the elderly's vicissitudes of late so I've taken on the mantle of Chef du jour. Meanwhile, she has become versed at directing the assembly of the assorted materials that go into a proper meal. Being the dutiful husband that I have learned to be over the last 50-some-odd years, I follow her directives with appropriate gusto. With her at the helm, I make some pretty good chow!

I can make *Lipton Chicken-Noodle* soup with toasted cheese sandwiches without burning the toast! And I make bang-up Indian Fry-Bread (using a tortilla instead) with refried beans,

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

chorizo, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, shredded cheddar and salsa. Lose the lettuce and tomatoes, throw a couple of fried eggs on top and you've got Huevos Rancheros. I have also taken the skill of fetching to some kind of high art: *Guayo's* and *The Burger House* are not so far that I can't launch a culinary expedition for grub. (It's the hunter-gatherer in me!)

Claudette's mom used to make stuffed bell-peppers when she was a kid during the war years. It was a very inexpensive meal because you could grow the peppers, rice was cheap and Bob (the man of the family) was a hunter and could hunt for elk, deer or whatever back in the day. And the family raised chickens, ducks and rabbits, so there was always meat.

What I'm leading up to here is the story about my sister-in-law's dad, Morton Glueck. Mort was a principal employee of *Matson Lines*. Matson's role in the economic development of Hawaii was significant. Its famed passenger liners and *Waikiki Hotels* were instrumental in the development of tourism in the beginning of the last century. In the '50s, Matson revolutionized shipping services to Hawaii when it introduced containerization in the Pacific. My brother Bill and MaryEllen met in Hawaii. He was a DJ at *KPOI*. They married and ended up in Tucson, where he was a radio personality.

Mort and his wife Rita loved to splurge on their vacations. They would fly in to Phoenix, rent a car and enjoy the drive to Tucson to visit with Bill and MaryEllen. (You need to understand what a drive though the desert was like to people who spent most of their time near the ocean and in places that had lots of water and green stuff!)

So, for no particular reason other than Mort and Rita were in town, Claudette invited MaryEllen, Bill, Rita and Mort to

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

come over and have dinner with us of a Saturday evening. They were all delighted and accepted the invite. Claudette decided to do stuffed bell-peppers because it was something she knew how to make. Hey, all it takes is a bell-pepper, some fluffy rice, ground beef, some spices and stuff, some cheese and a little tomato sauce. (Ok, so I'm just a husband ... what do I know?)

Well, my bride put out a fantastic spread of chipables, dipables and hors d'oeuvres for the preliminaries. There were mixed drinks, beer and sodas for those who wanted them. After a while she brought out the big deal - stuffed bell-peppers. Well, mister Glueck just went bananas about them. He gobbled his up and when Claudette asked if anybody would like another one he replied in the affirmative. There were plenty because Claudette always made enough to freeze for later. All three of us men went for the offer of seconds. When had he finished his second serving, Mort asked if there were any more, allowing as how they were so delicious. Rita, being the very proper lady, glared at him, jabbed him in the ribs with her elbow and huffed "Mort" under her breath! Claudette replied, "Of course ..." and got him another one. Later, on their way out, Mort was like a puppy, gushing what a wonderful meal Claudette had presented. We made small talk on the porch for a while, watching the stars in the Tucson skies. Both he and Rita were gracious guests and it was a memorable evening.

I cannot cook anything like those bell-peppers as well as Claudette ... so I've settled on **Stouffer's** brand frozen stuffed bell-peppers. Just pop 'em in the microwave. Oh! Yummy!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, November 30, 2017

## Sex, Drugs & Rock 'n' Roll

Being a news-watcher/journalist-of-sorts ... it appears to me that what we have here is failure to communicate lead by the Mainstream Media's talking heads.

First, it was all about lies and collusion and Russia, Russia, Russia.

Then the NFL's "Take a Knee" that reduced viewership and attendance by some 20%. It began when former San Francisco 49er quarter-back **Colin Kaepernick** refused to stand for the National Anthem and Salute the Stars and Stripes. He stayed seated for the first four 49ers pre-season games last year. Here is just one paragraph from "*An Open Letter to the NFL*" published earlier this year in **The Post and Mail**: "To the players of the NFL: We are the people who buy your tickets, watch you on TV, and wear your jerseys. We anxiously wait for Sundays so we can cheer for you and marvel at your athleticism. Although we love to watch you play, we care little about your opinions until you offend us. You have the absolute right to express yourselves, but we have the absolute right to boycott you. We have tolerated your drug use and DUIs, your domestic violence, and your vulgar displays of wealth. We should be ashamed for putting our admiration of your physical skills before what is morally right. But now you have gone too far. You have insulted our flag, our country, our soldiers, our police officers, and our veterans. You are living the American dream, yet you disparage our great country." The insult to American patriots continues ...

Statue-busting accompanied with clashes between white supremacists and Antifa was the next big thing. Antifa were

## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

usually garbed in Black. Supremacists generally displayed red flags, with or without the confederate stars & bars. Their clashes lead to bloodshed and death and were quickly condemned and suppressed across the country.

Finally, we've come to the sex life of Harvey Weinstein, a frenzy that soon expanded to include literally everyone's unsolicited sexual overtures over many decades! Network TV commentators, movie stars, members of the Congress and folks running for state and national office have been singled out by alleged victims of unwanted touching, groping, feeling, sexual harassment and attempted or actual rape. The Congress is up to its eyeballs in trouble because of reports that a special system had been set up to suppress allegations of sexual misconduct, with at least 17 million tax-payer dollars of hush-money being paid to alleged victims.

Still lurking in the background, ready to take the limelight, is the growing war on opiate abuse. The federal government, states, counties and municipalities are girding their loins for a massive war on drugs of all sorts, but especially illicit opiates. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published the following August 1st, 2017: *"Overdose deaths involving prescription opioids have quadrupled since 1999, and so have sales of these prescription drugs. From 1999 to 2015, more than 183,000 people have died in the U.S. from overdoses related to prescription opioids. Opioid prescribing continues to fuel the epidemic. Today, nearly half of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid. In 2015, more than 15,000 people died from overdoses involving prescription opioids. The most common drugs involved in prescription opioid overdose deaths include: Methadone, Oxycodone and Hydrocodone. Every day, over 1,000 people are treated in emergency departments for misusing prescription opioids."* President Trump has exhorted law enforcement nation-wide to work with the medical

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

community to erase the carnage caused by drug abuse. The war is coming ... soon.

I'll predict that the next big news story squeezing your brains 24/7 will be about Music - Rock 'n' Roll to be precise. Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, The Rolling Stones, The Beach Boys, Snoop Dogg, Notorious B.I.G., Eminem, et al. Of course! It eventually follows that after Sex and Drugs, Rock 'n' Roll will end up under the media's microscope. Whether Country Music will get dragged into the fray, we'll just have to wait and see. While Rock 'n' Roll, Rhythm & Blues and Jazz have always had their seamy sides, Country Music has avoided scandal for the most part. In fact, some of the greatest stars in Country Music have been criminals at some time in their lives ... take Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson for instance.

To me, it seems like the Mainstream Media has forgotten how to report the news anymore. Now, it has to be sensational to make the headlines!

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## Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Monday, December 4, 2017

### Out in the Cold

There is a song that haunts me ... written by country singer Merle Haggard. It's a song he wrote after serving his time in California's prison system.

Listen: <https://youtu.be/j-cEyh9qRwI>

*I'd like to hold my head up and be proud of who I am,  
but they won't let my secret go untold.  
I paid the debt I owed them, but they're still not satisfied,  
now I'm a branded man out in the cold,*

*When they let me out of prison, I held my head up high,  
determined I would rise above the shame.  
But no matter where I travel, the black mark follows me,  
I'm branded with a number on my name.*

*If I live to be a hundred, guess I'll never clear my name,  
'cause everybody knows I've been in jail.  
No matter where I'm living, I've got to tell them where I've been,  
or they'll send me back to prison if I fail.*

*Now I'm a branded man out in the cold.*

In 1958, twenty-year-old Merle Haggard was sent to San Quentin after being convicted of burglary and attempted escape from the Kern County jail. While he served his 30 month sentence in one of America's roughest prisons, Haggard made constructive use of his time. The "Hag" earned his GED and got his chops playing in the prison band. Between the '60s and the '80s, he had 38 number-one hits. He and Buck Owens teamed up to create the incredibly lucrative Bakersfield sound - country music with substantially more grit to it than the popular Nashville sound.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Haggard's tale is true everywhere. A majority of folks who've done time have served about a third and then been released on parole. Depending on the severity of their crime and their behavior in custody, they have to report more or less regularly to a parole officer. A minority of convicts turn down the prospect of parole, preferring to pay their debt in full. Those who complete their time, whether in custody or on parole, can petition the courts for restoration of their rights. But there is one thing that seldom gets fully returned to a convicted Felon - the ability to seek and retain gainful employment.

How does a guy who's served his time get a job? Even though they paid their dues and did their time, their records follow them wherever they go. Background checks are the bane of all offenders. Who wants to hire a crook - whether they paid their debt to society or not? Trustys doing jail time have it better than people in the outs ... most fast-food businesses will hire them, knowing they are motivated to be on time and to work hard rather than remain in jail.

It seems like sex offenders are never off the hook. They have to register with the local police and/or Sheriff's Office wherever they live. They're given a few days to re-register if they move. Their debt is never paid - no matter what. I know two sex offenders, both of whom were accused of child molestation. Both claimed innocence. One was convicted - the other copped a plea.

One served his time, a tough year of it locked-down in the local jail for his own protection. Lock-down is 23 hours per day in an isolated cell with one hour in the day room out for exercise and perhaps a shower. Once a week the hour out is spent outdoors in an area about a quarter the size of a basketball court. He never posted bail and was convicted by a local jury of a crime allegedly involving a minor some twenty

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

years earlier. Upon release from prison, he returned to his position at the family business. He returned to a support system that few people, much less just-released felons, have available.

The other guy got seventeen years, opted to serve his full term rather than be a parolee, and hasn't held a job for any appreciable length of time in the eight or ten years since he got out. His family was able to provide housing and some cash. When he went to prison he had a student loan, which he couldn't pay. The amount he owed doubled from penalties and interest and his background check now includes negative creditworthiness as a result. He went to school and learned welding. But there was no work. He got into a trucking school and was doing well until his vehicle broke and he couldn't get there. His father passed away some time ago and then his mom moved away, leaving him no support system except welfare and food stamps.

It's hard for convicted felons to find and keep employment after their release because of the stigma attached to their background ... those numbers on their names. Without a great support system, it's almost impossible for sex offenders. In a free country, is it wrong to continue to punish someone long after they've served their sentence? I don't know. That's a tough subject.

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Thursday, December 07, 2017

## A Day of Infamy

It was 76 years ago today that the United States of America was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy and its Air Force. A flotilla of six Jap Carriers launched an air attack on Pearl Harbor that resulted in the deaths of over two-thousand servicemen and disabled much of America's Pacific Fleet.

At 7:02 a.m., two radar operators spotted large groups of aircraft in flight toward the island of Oahu from the north, but, with a flight of B-17s expected from the United States at the time, they were told not to sound an air-raid alert. Thus, the Japanese air assault came as a devastating surprise to the U.S. naval base in the Hawaiian Islands.

It was 7:48am when a swarm of 353 Jap Zeros, in two waves that included fighters, level and dive bombers and torpedo bombers, bombed and strafed at will. Five of the eight battleships in the harbor, three destroyers, and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged and more than 200 aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,403 Americans lost their lives and 1,178 were wounded, many while valiantly attempting to repulse the attack.

Fortunately for the United States, all three Pacific Fleet carriers were out at sea on training maneuvers.

The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, President Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress and declared, *"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."* He asked Congress to approve a resolution recognizing the state of war between the United States and

### Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

Japan. The Senate voted for war against Japan by 82 to 0, and the House of Representatives approved the resolution by a vote of 388 to 1. The sole dissenter was a devout pacifist, Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, to which the U.S. reciprocated.

The American contribution to the ultimately successful Allied war effort spanned four years and cost more than 416,800 American military lives. But, it was the Soviet Union that suffered the most casualties of all the allies during World War Two - 9,750,000 of its military might died in battle. Including civilians in the USSR, the estimated grand-total of Russians killed was some 25 Million! And today, they're supposed to be our enemy?

Because it happened without a declaration of war and without explicit warning, the attack on Pearl Harbor was later judged in the Tokyo Trials to be a war crime.

*Much of the above text is courtesy History.com and Wikipedia.*

Watch the 43 minute NewDocFilms documentary here:  
[https://youtu.be/XnQ\\_6h3VtRo](https://youtu.be/XnQ_6h3VtRo)

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## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

**Monday, December 11, 2017**

### **Innocent Until ???**

The cardinal premise of American jurisprudence is that the accused is always presumed innocent until and unless found guilty in a court of law. That premise seems to have been discarded in the recent past by people holding high office and members of the Press.

I heard a question posed on TV last week by Stewart Varney who asked what a man can say, if anything, if accused of sexual misconduct. He can deny the accusation, but then he is accused of calling his accuser a liar. He can remain silent and make no comments, but then no denial must mean he's guilty. If he admits to any part of the accusation, in the public's mind he's automatically a sexual predator, a pervert and therefore, a criminal. Furthermore, there is no amount of money that can reinstate the honor of any person wrongly accused.

Where is the presumption of innocence in this scenario? The court of public opinion can be extremely harsh. If the accused is found not guilty in court, history shows us that public opinion rarely changes! The finding of not guilty in the O J Simpson murder trial comes to mind. The public was outraged, even though it takes a jury's unanimity to present a finding of guilty (or not guilty) in a murder trial. Every one of the Simpson jury members found him not guilty of murder, yet he carries the heavy burden of public opinion with him wherever he goes, no matter what he did or didn't do.

Did any of the men accused lately of sexual harassment - and even rape - get a fair trial? Public figures are not given the benefit of the doubt - especially in the Mainstream Media. That attitude applies equally to a number of those accused recently. News personalities, members of the Congress and

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

heads of giant corporations have all pointed fingers at others who may or may not have committed some sort of unwanted sexual advance. And, what say ye about that Congressional "Hush Fund"?

Senator Al Franken, in his departing address, complained that too many are accused and forced out of business or office while a man bragging on tape about groping women still occupies the Oval Office and an Alabama Judge still runs for the Senate, even while accused of several incidents of sexual impropriety that allegedly happened some 38 years ago. Even though he promised to protect and defend the Constitution when he was sworn into office, Franken gave neither the President nor Judge Moore the presumption of innocence guaranteed by that historic document. What have our circumstances come to when a person representing the people of Minnesota (and our government) can disregard the guiding principle of American criminal law?

And what ever happened to due process? Where are all the charges that should have been filed with the courts? If there are charges, are they civil or criminal? Have there been any preliminary hearings? Nobody seems to know or care ... especially the mainstream media.

The big story today is tomorrow's election in Alabama. Egged on by sickos in the mass media, Congressmen and Senators have been postulating what kind of punishment will be meted out if 70-year-old Judge Roy Moore is elected by the people of Alabama. The accusations of three women stemming from alleged incidents some 38 years ago conveniently popped up just a couple of weeks before the election. The people of Alabama are not convinced, especially considering the highly publicised shenanigans deployed by the Democrats during the 2016 Presidential elections. They also understand the American premise of innocence.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

Was the then thirty-something Roy Moore a bad guy almost four decades ago? Is there sufficient evidence to bring the accusations to trial? Have his accusers filed formal charges or are they just in it for the book deals? Alabamans have the ball. But, at this point in time, it doesn't matter very much. Judge Roy Moore remains innocent until ???

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**Thursday, December 14, 2017**

## **A Message for Congress**

I got a question in the email from President Trump about a week-and-a-half ago. He wanted to know how he was doing and what I thought could be done to do better. The following was my reply.

"You're doing a great job keeping your promises. [But,] I'd add another project: Congressional Unity. Both major parties have the same basic goals - beginning with a better economy. Turn the tables on Chuck Schumer and the gang ... bend the approach to reality like he does.

"Led by the likes of Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, Democrats don't care about the economy. They don't care about a better life for America's people. They don't care about people earning higher wages because of a booming economy. Instead, like Schumer and Pelosi, all they want to do is complain how bad everything is and how horrible it will be if Republicans succeed with their agenda.

"The Republican agenda is America's agenda. There is no reason that our Democrat colleagues in the House and Senate can't support the non-partisan goals of our agenda: Lower taxes for those who have to pay them, lower taxes and better competitive positions for American Corporations and a big leg up for Small Businesses, which are the backbone of our economy.

"Democrats need to get on board with what used to be their base - the Blue Collar worker. The future of Mom and Pop stores, small business and big business, as well, depend on members of the entire Congress working together. More profits for business and industry mean more work and higher

#### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

pay for America's Blue-collar workers. Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree on that basic issue. Quit the fighting words and [concentrate] on consensus!

"Thank you."

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Monday, December 18, 2017

## Polls Show Public Against Tax Bill

I've been reading in the news that people don't like or want the Republican Tax Bill. *The Atlantic* columnist **Russell Berman** stated as much in a December 15th article claiming, "*polls warning Republican lawmakers that this legislation is not something the public seems to want.*"

*The Week* published an article quoting **Jonah Goldberg** in *NationaReview.com*, "Still, this tax plan is wildly unpopular, with just 35 percent of Americans' support."

*RealClearPolitics* has published a number of articles from the MSM pointing out that polls show likely voters giving the Bill a thumbs down. And, according to a **Gallup Poll** Thursday, The Congress' Job approval is at 17% - with those polled awarding a disapproval rating of 78%.

Back in early 2016 I predicted that **Donald Trump** would become the next President because the pollsters were wrong, the pundits were wrong, the politicians were wrong, and the Mainstream Media was wrong. My January 5th column this year concluded with, "*Trump won the presidential election because the mainstream media concentrated on his rhetoric and ignored the message, while voters embraced his message and ignored the rhetoric.*"

The same thing is happening with the polls. Democrats are consistently over-pollled, Republicans are under-pollled and the largest body of voters - the Independents - hardly show up at all! They were wrong days before the 2016 election predicting a Clinton win by two or three points. It became obvious, to me at least, that the polls were not adequately sampling middle-Americans, but rather concentrating on the

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Left and East Coasts. They got their data correct by virtue of Clinton's win of the popular vote. But they, like Clinton, failed to recognize that our population centers do not control the election of those who constitute the majority in the Electoral College ... it's Middle-America.

So, I contend that the Polls, again, are missing the boat by failing to properly sample their quarry. The Tax Bill will pass with the required simple majority and perhaps some help from a few Democrats.

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Thursday, December 21, 2017

## Just Wondering

I was just wondering ... why is it that I can't determine who I do business with on a day-to-day basis? In many states it's unlawful to discriminate against certain classes of people. The **US Supreme Court** will be issuing an edict relating to this scenario in the near future.

I remember signs posted in restaurants, "*We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone.*" But driven by liberal or progressive politics, that sign has become an affront to the law. Yes, the law! In many states it has been determined by their legislatures that it should be against the law to discriminate against any person, in any place accessible to the public, on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, age, disability, sex or sexual preference. Though representing a mere 4.1 per-cent of our population, the **LBGTQ** community has managed to convince lawmakers to abort America's moral code of conduct.

This raises huge questions about the relationship between morality and the law. Today we have legions of politicians and journalists having hissy-fits over allegations of sexual misconduct perpetrated by public figures. So, where is the discomfort with mandating how a business relates to its customers? Once upon a time a business thrived or went belly-up based on the quality of its products or services. Now, the government calls the shots.

Today, the government is so involved with the business of business that barely a minute goes by that doesn't involve some local, regional or national rule, regulation, policy, practice or procedure. Lakewood Colorado Masterpiece Cakeshop baker **Jack Phillips** has a lot more stuff on his

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plate that affects his business than a local law defining to whom he is required to cater.

There are **Mil-Standards** for Phillips' cake flour, the butter he uses, the size and packaging of the milk products he buys, the cartons in which he puts his cakes, and even the quality of the glass in his store-front window. Oh, please don't forget the scale he uses to measure his ingredients. Now, none of that includes the size, shape and color of the sign on his store's facade nor the one painted on his front window.

There's even a federal manual of quality standards. It used to be **Mil-Q-9858A** but, now that is insufficient and out-of-date, so it's been replaced by **ISO-9001**. **ANSI/NCSL-Z540** contains the standards by which calibration devices are fabricated and calibrated - to be used to assure that the baker's scale is correct. Yes! Not only is there a standard for weighing Phillips's products, but also there is a design, manufacture and calibration standard for the equipment used to calibrate his scale!

What would happen if we got rid of all those Mil, ISO and ANSI standards and let the quality of American products and services speak for itself? Take shoddy workmanship - bad copies of American products always get past the regulators. Sorta like regulating guns - the bad guys always find a way to get one. So why have any regulations at all?

Overbearing regulations benefit only the regulators because they usually interfere with the lives of law-abiding Americans. Remember: If regulators don't create or revise regulations, they'll be out of their jobs! Meanwhile, shysters and con-men are ignoring them! Fierce competition is good for business. So, why do we allow countless quantities of stupid rules and regulations - that are seldom enforced - rule our lives? I was just wondering ...

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

One more thing: Today is the first day of Winter in the Northern Hemisphere. The Winter Solstice, as the change is called, began at 11:28am EST. Winter solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight during the whole year. Some will say it's the best day to get married!

Whatever. Welcome to Winter!

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Monday, December 25, 2017

## **Merry Christmas!**

We have here, a great treat, c/o The Brothers Grim circa 1806!

### ***The Elves and The Shoemaker***

by [The Brothers Grimm](#)

#### **FIRST STORY**

A shoemaker, by no fault of his own, had become so poor that at last he had nothing left but leather for one pair of shoes. So in the evening, he cut out the shoes which he wished to begin to make the next morning, and as he had a good conscience, he lay down quietly in his bed, commended himself to God, and fell asleep. In the morning, after he had said his prayers, and was just going to sit down to work, the two shoes stood quite finished on his table. He was astounded, and knew not what to say to it. He took the shoes in his hands to observe them closer, and they were so neatly made that there was not one bad stitch in them, just as if they were intended as a masterpiece. Soon after, a buyer came in, and as the shoes pleased him so well, he paid more for them than was customary, and, with the money, the shoemaker was able to purchase leather for two pairs of shoes. He cut them out at night, and next morning was about to set to work with fresh courage; but he had no need to do so, for, when he got up, they were already made, and buyers also were not wanting, who gave him money enough to buy leather



#### Thayer's Wild Bunch IV

for four pairs of shoes. The following morning, too, he found the four pairs made; and so it went on constantly, what he cut out in the evening was finished by the morning, so that he soon had his honest independence again, and at last became a wealthy man. Now it befell that one evening not long before Christmas, when the man had been cutting out, he said to his wife, before going to bed, "What think you if we were to stay up to-night to see who it is that lends us this helping hand?" The woman liked the idea, and lighted a candle, and then they hid themselves in a corner of the room, behind some clothes which were hanging up there, and watched. When it was midnight, two pretty little naked men came, sat down by the shoemaker's table, took all the work which was cut out before them and began to stitch, and sew, and hammer so skilfully and so quickly with their little fingers that the shoemaker could not turn away his eyes for astonishment. They did not stop until all was done, and stood finished on the table, and they ran quickly away.

Next morning the woman said, "The little men have made us rich, and we really must show that we are grateful for it. They run about so, and have nothing on, and must be cold. I'll tell thee what I'll do: I will make them little shirts, and coats, and vests, and trousers, and knit both of them a pair of stockings, and do thou, too, make them two little pairs of shoes." The man said, "I shall be very glad to do it;" and one night, when everything was ready, they laid their presents all together on the table instead of the cut-out work, and then concealed themselves to see how the little men would behave. At midnight they came bounding in, and wanted to get to work at once, but as they did not find

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch IV**

any leather cut out, but only the pretty little articles of clothing, they were at first astonished, and then they showed intense delight. They dressed themselves with the greatest rapidity, putting the pretty clothes on, and singing,

"Now we are boys so fine to see,  
Why should we longer cobblers be?"

Then they danced and skipped and leapt over chairs and benches. At last they danced out of doors. From that time forth they came no more, but as long as the shoemaker lived all went well with him, and all his undertakings prospered.

### **SECOND STORY**

There was once a poor servant-girl, who was industrious and cleanly, and swept the house every day, and emptied her sweepings on the great heap in front of the door. One morning when she was just going back to her work, she found a letter on this heap, and as she could not read, she put her broom in the corner, and took the letter to her master and mistress, and behold it was an invitation from the elves, who asked the girl to hold a child for them at its christening. The girl did not know what to do, but at length, after much persuasion, and as they told her that it was not right to refuse an invitation of this kind, she consented. Then three elves came and conducted her to a hollow mountain, where the little folks lived. Everything there was small, but more elegant and beautiful than can be described. The

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baby's mother lay in a bed of black ebony ornamented with pearls, the coverlids were embroidered with gold, the cradle was of ivory, the bath of gold. The girl stood as godmother, and then wanted to go home again, but the little elves urgently entreated her to stay three days with them. So she stayed, and passed the time in pleasure and gaiety, and the little folks did all they could to make her happy. At last she set out on her way home. Then first they filled her pockets quite full of money, and after that they led her out of the mountain again. When she got home, she wanted to begin her work, and took the broom, which was still standing in the corner, in her hand and began to sweep. Then some strangers came out of the house, who asked her who she was, and what business she had there? And she had not, as she thought, been three days with the little men in the mountains, but seven years, and in the meantime her former masters had died.

### **THIRD STORY**

A certain mother's child had been taken away out of its cradle by the elves, and a changeling with a large head and staring eyes, which would do nothing but eat and drink, laid in its place. In her trouble she went to her neighbour, and asked her advice. The neighbour said that she was to carry the changeling into the kitchen, set it down on the hearth, light a fire, and boil some water in two egg-shells, which would make the changeling laugh, and if he laughed, all would be over with him. The woman did everything that her neighbour bade her. When she put the egg-shells with water on

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the fire, the imp said, "I am as old now as the Wester forest, but never yet have I seen any one boil anything in an egg-shell!" And he began to laugh at it. Whilst he was laughing, suddenly came a host of little elves, who brought the right child, set it down on the hearth, and took the changeling away with them.

With that, Claudette and I wish you a Merry Christmas ...  
Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, December 28, 2017

## Tax Bill v. MSM & Dems

Between the Mainstream Media and the Congressional Democratic Leadership, half of America actually believes the Tax Bill the President signed into Law last week will increase their taxes. Yes! Fifty percent of Americans are convinced that their taxes are going up this year and they're mad as Hell! Well, they're wrong.

The misleading **CNBC.com** headline reads "***GOP plan will ultimately raise taxes on 50% of Americans.***" Buried in the details of the story is the truth ... nine percent will see tax increases in 2019, however "***By 2027, that proportion would grow to 50 percent, largely because the legislation's personal tax cuts expire in 2026.***" This is the way most of the Mainstream Media have been presenting the details of the Tax Bill. The source of the story's distorted claim is the **Tax Policy Center**, a joint project of the left-leaning **Brookings Institution** and the **Urban Institute** that the media routinely labels "nonpartisan."

The above example is typical of left-leaning reporters and politicians. The absolute worst of the worst are House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** and Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer**, both of whom for the last month blatantly left out the fine print while proclaiming on the floor and to the press the talking point that "***Fifty percent of Americans will be forced to pay higher taxes because of this Bill.***" *[It] "raises taxes on millions of middle-class families."*

The other liberal story line/talking point is the gloomy prediction that "***13 million Americans will lose their health insurance***" if the Individual Mandate (IRS tax penalty) is eliminated. The truth from a November 29th **Fortune**

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magazine article is: *"According to CBO [Congressional Budget Office], 13 million fewer people would be insured in 2027 compared with current law while premiums would spike 10%. That's because, without the policy "stick" of a mandate, healthier and wealthier people would likely drop out of Obamacare's marketplaces, in turn making individual insurance risk pools more costly by disproportionately leaving them with sicker Americans."*

I was sitting at the bar at the Cobre Valle Country Club a while back, listening to a couple of friends argue about the tax changes and their effects.

One of the guys, a liberal Democrat, contended that he'll be getting screwed because his payroll will increase and his taxes with it. He owns a restaurant. Like the Media and Politicians, he left out the part about the Arizona minimum wage increase to \$10.50 per hour. The Arizona Labor Law reads, *"An employer may pay tipped employees a maximum of \$3.00 per hour less than the minimum wage if the employer can establish by its records that for each week, when adding tips received to wages paid, the employee received not less than the minimum wage for all hours worked."* And he parroted the Democrat Line about fifty percent will pay more and thirteen million will loose their healthcare.

The other guy, a conservative Democrat, has been paying attention and doing his homework. He tried to tell our friend the facts ... but most liberals seem to talk over whatever it is with which they disagree - and, for the most part, belligerently! My other friend desperately tried to speak, but finally just grinned and had another beer.

The tiny little detail purposely left out of those gloom and doom predictions is that **nothing happens until 2027**. That's when the Congress will be forced to address the "sunset" of

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the personal tax rate cuts in the 2017 Bill. I'll bet the change in talking points between now and 2027 will force the Congress to "make adjustments", so to speak.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

**Thayer's**

# **Wild Bunch IV**

**By J E Ted Thayer**

