

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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### **QUOTES FOR THE DAY**

**“Truth is mysterious, elusive, always to be conquered. Liberty is dangerous, as hard to live with as it is elating. We must march towards these two goals, painfully but resolutely, certain in advance of our failings on so long a road.” Albert Camus**

**“I call it truthful hyperbole” Donald Trump in his 1987 book, “Art of the Deal” Example: my properties are worth \$3million, but to get bank financing I claim they are worth \$5 million.**

**“This is Russia trying to influence how Americans vote in this election, and we believe strongly that Americans need to be aware of this.” October, 2020 letter put forth by former CIA director, John Brennan and former Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper and co-signed by more than fifty**

**former top intelligence officers, none of whom had seen the Hunter Biden laptop.**

## **THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG ?**

**You remember Peter Strzok, the senior FBI official investigating Trump and possible Russian connections and his lady friend, Lisa Page, a lawyer working on Mueller's Russian investigation. While they were supposedly assigned to discover the truth and only the truth, their cell phone contacts between August 2015 and December 2016 uncovered a trail of vitriol and hatred for Trump at such a high level as to discredit anything they might put on paper.**

**One had to ask, was this just a one off situation or were there many others on a similar track, a cabal, if you will, the members of which, "knew" didn't suspect, but "knew" Trump was an existential threat to democracy and had to be stopped.**

**Notwithstanding that, 74,222,958 Americans voted for Trump, the cabal has always "known" better, and so we have our 50+ former intel**

**officers signing a letter having to do with something about which they had no knowledge. The truth be damned, the man had to be stopped, and so proceeded the continuing train of, “get Trump” events.**

**Your scribe writes these words as neither a Republican nor a Democrat, but an observer who can opine that the latest fiasco at Mar a Lago will energize a huge percentage of those 74+ million Americans who voted for Trump in 2020 and who totally believe in the existence of the cabal, as described above.**

**Just as the intel officers, in their zeal to protect Biden in the upcoming election, cared little for the facts, so it is with the Trump supporters today. They wouldn't care if he had illegally kept the nuclear football. In their collective mind the Mar a Lago raid was just one more attempt to take Trump off the national stage.**

**Has Trump been the architect of many of his problems? Of course. Has he consistently told untruths and outright lies? Of course. Was the election stolen? Not a shred of evidence has been found, but as of June, nearly 70% of**

**Republicans still thought the election had been stolen. Could Trump be found criminally liable for the events of January 6<sup>th</sup>? Could happen.**

**Today's Republican displeasure is focused on the FBI and DOJ, which they and many moderates, as well, view as having become totally politicized and partisan, all part of the "get Trump" camp.**

**76% of Republicans agree with the Roger Stone quote that, "There is a group of politicized thugs at the top of the FBI who are using the FBI as Joe Biden's personal Gestapo." They are joined, by the way, by 49% of independents, who agree.**

**Not surprisingly, with regard to the Mar a Lago flap, in an Alice through the looking glass moment, 75% of Democrats think the FBI is doing a good job and 81% of liberals (the folks who want to defund law enforcement) are, "big fans".**

**But, if today's Republican complaint is that the FBI and DOJ are wedded to the Democrats' agenda, let us not forget that Trump was**

**known to have demanded personal loyalty from his picks for head of the FBI and DOJ, failing to understand that they worked for the country, not Mr. Trump.**

**And, hear this; in a new book coming out, “The Divider: Trump in the White House”, Trump complained to his Chief of Staff, John Kelly, former four star Marine General, “Why can’t you be more like the German generals?”- referring to Hitler’s generals, pointing out that they were , “totally loyal” to their leader. President Trump, never having been a great student of history, was taken aback when Kelly informed him that Germany’s generals had tried to kill Hitler on three occasions. Trump’s response, “No, no, no, they were totally loyal to him.” So why do we see all these contrary views?**

**It’s all about people perceiving what they want to perceive. “truth” and “liberty” turn out to be totally subjective terms, but quite precisely and objectively defined by conservatives and liberals alike. They all “know” what is best for the country. They all know the “truth”.**

**Albert Camus had it right, “There will be many failings along the road to truth and liberty.”**

**So now that I have annoyed many of our Democrat and Republican readers by challenging their views of the political world, a brief review of some interesting stats, many of which will be contested, depending on your side of the aisle.**

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

**As of late July, 68.6 % of Americans did not want to see Biden run again, and, 65.2% of Americans did not want to see Trump run again. Your scribe has seen no updates, but in the aftermath of voter support for successful Trump backed candidates in the recent primaries, and the Mar a Lago raid, and president Biden’s recent signing of the major health care, climate and “inflation reduction” bill, it can be assumed that the negative numbers for both men will improve, but what a conundrum, to find ourselves with the two most likely candidates for 2024, neither of whom the majority of voters wish to have as candidates.**

**With about eighty days to the midterms, the Republicans must be getting a bit nervous and the Democrats more hopeful about the congressional elections. Here is an interesting chart of the share of Americans who would prefer a Democrat or Republican controlled congress:**

	<b>2022</b>			
<b>Prefer</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>AUG</b>
<b>Republican</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Prefer</b>				
<b>Democrat</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>50%</b>

**Was the flip flop due to Roe v Wade, or lack of Republican action on gun control? Who knows, but even with these changing preferences will it be enough to keep Democrats in control. The pundits don't think so. Apparently, with all the gerrymandering that has gone on this year these gurus still believe the Republicans will prevail. If that should occur, I would predict a two- year reign of retribution. The world will finally become fully aware of the media stifled Hunter Biden laptop; a path leading right to the door step of the president, also known as,**

**“the big guy.” Is someone whispering the I word? But, not to worry – according to transcripts, the president’s brother, Jim, is reported to have said there won’t be any problems because, “We have plausible deniability.” Stay tuned.**

## **TAIWAN TSUNAMI**

**So we have president Biden saying, not once, but twice, early this summer, that the United States would militarily defend Taiwan if China were to invade. That caused his aides, the State Department and Pentagon to scramble to walk back those statements and reassure China that we still adhere to the “One China” concept embodied in the Shanghai Communique signed in 1972, which enabled the U.S. to finally have dealings with China. Strategic Ambiguity has been the U.S. posture ever since.**

**China was outraged in the aftermath of president Biden’s statement, but the walking back exercise partially defused the issue until speaker Pelosi announced she was considering a visit to Taiwan. As third in line to the presidency and on top of Biden’s earlier**



**statement, China threatened severe measures if she were to make the trip. This crisis was all so unnecessary.**

**Prior to announcing her possible visit, Ms Pelosi should have consulted with the White House and the Pentagon, both of which opined, after her public announcement, that they wished she would not make the visit. As Alan Dupont, a former Australian defense analyst said, “It doesn’t say much about Biden’s clout that he can’t prevail on the speaker from his own party.”**

**Of course, once the public announcement was made, we had no choice but to follow through. To back down because China said we had better cancel the visit would make the U.S. look feeble, kowtowing to China’s dictates. As a result it was no surprise that both Democrats and Republicans spoke out in favor of the trip, essentially saying, “China doesn’t tell us what we can or can’t do.” Given the heated environment, Ms. Pelosi should have just kept her mouth shut.**

**What fruits did her visit reap? Just the biggest live practice invasion of Taiwan by the Chinese ever staged. Folks, this was not just firing a few missiles off the Taiwan coast. This was practice for the real thing. Digital wars on computers in conference rooms are one thing, these live exercises, however, give the Chinese the opportunity to see what is militarily practicable and where changes or improvements need to be made. Thank you Ms. Pelosi for bringing the pot almost to a full boil.**

**A reminder from earlier HH issues, the Rand Corp, under contract from the Pentagon has run 15 different computerized war time scenarios if the U.S. gets into it with China over Taiwan. The score: China 15, U.S. zero.**

**The Rand Corp. also opines that, “one year of fighting would reduce America’s GDP by 5 to 10% and China’s by 25 to 35%. A global depression would be all but guaranteed.”**

**The editorial board of the NY Times weighs in with this. “Treating China as a hostile power is a counterproductive simplification. The two nations occupy large chunks of the same**

**planet. They do not agree on the meaning of Democracy or human rights, but they do share some values, most important, the pursuit of prosperity. The uncomfortable reality is that the United State and China need each other.”**

## **MS PELOSI’S CHINA CODA**

**Turns out there was a non-congressional member in Ms. Pelosi’s trip to Taiwan, her son, Paul Pelosi Jr. He sits on the board of two lithium mining exploration companies whose stock prices have jumped 65% and 35% in recent days. China is home to some of the world’s top lithium-ion battery producers, including Tesla’s own chief supplier, CATL. Paul Jr. has every reason to make nice with China.**

**Anyway, as the writer Alex Koyfman observes, in the immediate aftermath of Ms. Pelosi’s trip (she has been a constant critic of China’s human rights record for a long time) she had two things to say. “We still support the One China policy.” And, “China is one of the freest societies in the world.” You can’t make this stuff up.**

## **IRS, MAKE MY DAY**

**We've all read that \$80 billion has been allocated in the new Biden bill for hiring 80,000 new IRS agents. How do you attract these green eyeshade- wearing pencil pushers? Why, you write in the job description that, "You must be willing to use deadly force." Wowee! That's for me. How exciting - blowing away some poor schmuck who hasn't paid his fair share- just like Clint Eastwood .**

**Economist, Art Laffer thinks this \$80 billion is a waste, will never get the projected pay back. The super- wealthy don't have to cheat. They have tax lawyers up the wazoo. Sure, they don't pay high taxes, but that's because of the tax code and the legal loopholes. Wait and see, there's a gun toting IRS agent lurking around the corner looking for you, Mr. small business owner and middle income tax payer.**

**The NY Times is going to have to fire one of it's financial section editors for allowing this lead: "The secretary of the Treasury has directed**

**the IRS to spend \$80 billion to create a plan to overhaul the agency.”**

**You got that folks? That’s \$80 billion to create the plan. So once the plan is created, I guess they need another \$80 billion to implement it. Go, NY Times!!**

**Your faithful scribe,**

**PB**