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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“You never run out of things that can go wrong.” Murphy’s Law

BUILD BACK BETTER

Who, among our older readers, doesn’t yearn for periods in our history, like 1959 to 1969, when Everett Dirksen was Minority Leader and Republicans and Democrats could even be friends and have drinks or dinner after work.

It wasn’t all hearts and flowers at the end of that ten year period, as President Nixon was heavily criticized for maintaining an, “enemies list.” Fast forward to today, and everyone has an enemies list. Who’s on it? If you’re a Democratic politician – every Republican politician is an enemy, and vice versa. Notice, I

specifically refer to politicians as there are a few thousand of us non-politicians who can still carry on a civil conversation.

In any event, the latest battleground is the president's Build Back Better.

The three to four trillion dollar package being proposed has its first focus on infrastructure, and the Republicans contend that Mr. Biden is making up his own definition of the word and lumping too many extraneous categories into the traditional definition. Translation- the Republicans want a much smaller package.

I have contended that we are putting the cart in front of the horse by focusing on physical infrastructure issues before human issues; specifically, the drastic condition of our inner cities. Bridges and other safety issues have to have top priority, but while pot holes are bad for tires, inner city schools are bad for brains.

I do see some good things for the human side of the program, but most of them will be further down the implementation road: Underserved communities, \$20 billion;

Affordable housing, \$213 Billion; public schools, \$100 Billion; Child care facilities, \$25 Billion; and community investment, \$20 Billion. These monies will be, at best, a small beginning of what is really needed and most will be doled out after the hard, physical infrastructure monies have been spent.

So, today we are at loggerheads. Mr. Biden would like to have a bipartisan deal, but the Republicans are intransigent in their opposition, and that's not a criticism if you can see their rationale. The Democrats, being unable (at this time) to undo the filibuster, are opting to push this legislation through with something called, "reconciliation". It has been used by both parties in the past and first came into existence in 1974. Reconciliation was thought to be allowed only once in a fiscal year and the Biden administration has already used it for the \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. Now they are seeking to use it for an unprecedented second time. Enter stage left, Ms. Elizabeth MacDonough, the Senate parliamentarian (say what??) – never heard of her or it (pardon my ignorance) But, here's the deal – neither the congress, nor the senate, nor the Supreme

Court get to weigh in on this one. Ms. MacDonough – all by herself, gets to decide if the Democrats can do a second reconciliation. She has said, “Yes”, and there, with the opinion of one person, comes a decision of enormous consequence to the nation.

AFGHANISTAN

And speak about, if things can go wrong they will – while the U.S. dithers about whether or not to pull out our last 3,500 troops by May first, along with two times that number from our NATO allies, we learn the Taliban believe they have already vanquished the U.S. According to Adam Nossiter of the NY Times, “Having outlasted the all-powerful Americans, the rest is child’s play in the Taliban view. The game is essentially over.”

A senior Afghan government representative recently said that a compromise, coalition government – recently proposed to both sides by Zalmay Khalilzad, the American peace envoy, would merely be used by the Taliban as a “Trojan Horse” for the seizure of power. If we don’t pull out by May first, the Taliban start

attacking American and NATO forces again. With the few forces we have left, we're not going to defeat the Taliban. When we withdraw and the Taliban are on the cusp of once again taking over the country as they did in 1996 through 2001, what are we going to do - send in another 100,000 troops? I don't think so. Essentially, another U.S. foreign debacle reminiscent of Vietnam, but thankfully, with a small comparative number of casualties.

IRAN

If something can go wrong - you bet! We now discover, according to Steven Erlanger that , "United States officials now estimate that Iran's 'breakout time'- the time necessary to assemble enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon- is now down to a few months." We have known they have cheated on the original treaty from the start. That's why Mossad periodically has to go in and blow their centrifuges and other facilities to smithereens. But, no, we want back in the deal which president Trump correctly saw as terrible to the U.S., with its short number of years duration, the cheating of the Iranians, their

unopposed ability to develop missile systems and their support for destabilizing proxy wars throughout the gulf region.

Now Iran says they will only discuss if we first lift all sanctions, and we say, we will only lift sanctions if Iran agrees to stop enriching uranium and goes back to the original deal – except we now want a few other things – more years added to the deal, a cessation of missile development and a pull back from their proxy wars – wow! Sounds like the list of problematic issues identified by Mr. Trump.

MIGRANTS

Situation not getting any better and neither the president nor the Veep have found time to go and see for themselves. Now we find that the Department of Home land Security is recommending completing unfinished parts of the wall. At the same time, 275 Sheriffs have petitioned the Biden to close the border.

HUNTER WILL DO ANYTHING FOR A BUCK

That would be an estimated two million bucks for his new tell all, but not really, book, which can only be a further embarrassment to his father.

What a joke it turns out to be that John Brennan, a former head of the CIA conned 49 other intelligence officers into saying the Biden lap top story was “classic Russian disinformation.” Here’s some evidence for those intel experts having become partisan hacks: receipts showing, “he (Hunter) dropped off the MacBook at a Wilmington Repair shop on April 12, 2019. There is his distinctive signature on the repair docket which tallies with signatures on his driver’s license and other documents. There is his personal cell phone also on the docket.”

There is just a trove of information on that lap top (much of it unflattering to Hunter Biden), but it is definitely his stuff. That’s the seamy side of the story, “Oh that’s just the president’s poor tragic son, but let’s move on – nothing to do with the president.”

Some of you may recall, Tony Bobulinski referring to the “big guy” being set to get 10% of the business deals in which Hunter was involved – deals that came his way through trading on his father’s name and position. Bobulinski states that the “big guy” was none other than Joe Biden who had full knowledge of the operation. Now we learn, according to a recent NY Post article, “The laptop backs him (Bobulinski) up with a number of other e-mails in which Joe is referred to as “the big guy” or in one case, the “big man.”

It can rightly be conjectured that the conservatives were barking up the wrong tree when they kept insisting the election was stolen through faulty voting machines and other fraud – simply no evidence to date.

The NY Post, however, would have you believe that the media stole the election. There was ample cause, although the election was near, to ask questions about Joe Biden’s involvement in these business dealings, but the media purposely squashed the story, except for the Post. The end game was that nothing could be

permitted to stand in the way of Trump's defeat and Biden's victory.

According to the Post, a poll of 1,750 self identified Biden voters, after the election, found that, " 9.4% said they would not have voted for Biden had they known." Extrapolate that percentage to the 81 million votes Biden received and he winds up with slightly less than the 74 million votes received by Trump. Did the media try to influence the election? Did the media abandon their sworn duty in pursuit of political objectives? You be the judge.

WOKE ME WHEN IT'S OVER

This stuff is just getting ridiculous. What started as some good ideas to create greater awareness of offensive behavior (sexual, racial, religious, ethnic, etc) has now been hijacked by hyper agitators who actively search for anything that could possibly be offensive to anyone, and anyone not expressing support of these extremist views is instantly labeled with one of the big word bombs – "racist, sexist, white supremacist, bigot, etc, etc." Guess what? Americans aren't

buying it. The excesses of the movement now have a huge percentage of people who just roll their eyes at the latest “woke” or “wokeful” pronouncement.

What is going on here? Is there a group of “sensitivity” experts who gather every day at a secret site and come up with, for instance, the observation that Hasbro’s Mr. Potato Head has always been a male figure- “Gosh could wreak havoc with the emotional growth of young girls.” Time to send an e-mail to the head of the “diversity” department at Hasbro and bring this egregious situation to their attention. Voila! Mr. Potato head is DOA at the tender age of 45.

The list of the ridiculous and outright silly is endless, but the latest is beyond comprehension. Sheet music is the latest target, “now deemed a horrible racist transgression at Oxford University (of all places).” Sheet music “is too colonial- guilty of complicity in white supremacy.” Musical notation, per se is not being attacked, but old music. Bruce Bawer, the article’s author says, “Professors, we’re told, are set to

reform their music courses to move away from the classical repertoire, which includes the likes of Beethoven and Mozart because, ‘it’s white European music from the slave period.’” Geez!! I love Obama’s quote, “Don’t do stupid stuff”, and boy is this stupid.

Finally, the tide starts to turn. The San Francisco Board of Education faced tremendous backlash in California and across the nation for their decision to rename 44 schools that didn’t sit well with their concept of “wokefulness” Slated to be eradicated from school names were (among others) Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Louis Stevenson, Paul Revere and Alamo (not named for the Texas Battle, but for the Poplar tree). The chastened school board president now admits the effort, “had been rushed.” She said, “Any future efforts would involve engaging historians at nearby universities to help avoid future errors.” San Francisco mayor, London Breed called the whole effort, “offensive and completely unacceptable for the board to focus on changing school names rather than getting

children back into classrooms amid the pandemic.”

ONE PLACE WHERE COPS ARE LOVED

Southampton village, with a population of 3,307 – many thousands bigger in summer, has Thomas Cummings as its Chief of Police. Not exactly a hot bed of crime, it hasn't had a murder since 2008 and last year reported no rapes, robberies or aggravated assaults. It did have two car thefts, one burglary and 42 non-violent larcenies.

With or without Tom, there is not a lot going on for the 30 person police force except traffic control. Turns out the town council must be ecstatic over Tom's performance as his annual base pay last year was \$263,829. Just as a frame of reference, the NYPD Commissioner, Dermot Shea, has a base pay of \$239,092. Cummings total compensation package last year was \$441,945 – not bad for a Syracuse University Fine Arts graduate.

Your faithful scribe,

PB