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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

**“Australia is gum stuck on the bottom of
China’s shoe”**

**Chinese state media statement after Australia
calls for further inquiry into the virus:**

CHINA:

Great job, China with the above quote. You really know how to clear the air. They have discovered that the best defense is an aggressive offense. They are essentially telling the Aussies to stick it in their ear as China takes one third of Australia’s exports.

Just a few months ago China was a darling to many countries. Now China is vilified around the world. Does it make a difference if the virus started in a Wuhan wet market or in a nearby lab? To me – not at all. The fact of the

matter is that China has lied about the virus, the casualties it caused in China and how it failed to stop its spread around the world. Add a scary detail here; in 1918 the Spanish flu came back in spades for a second and then third invasion with a strengthened variation. Many epidemiologists are predicting the same for the corona virus.

The Chinese response to all of this is to drum up nationalistic fervor against those countries that would dare to hold them accountable. A reasonably popular country in the U.S. just six months ago, today 66% of Americans have a strong distaste for China, which has changed the way we will live for a very long time.

THERAPY INSTEAD OF A CURE:

We have previously spoken of the rush to find a vaccine. There are at least 90 projects under way. Given searches in the past for vaccines for other diseases, only about 9% make it to serious final testing. Additionally, we know about the one year to 18 month time frame; that's just to start producing it. And, for the country that discovers the best vaccine, whose

**citizens do you think will be the first to get it?
Bottom line- a very long wait before anyone
gets vaccinated.**

**Right now it appears that therapeutic
treatments may be the best bet for reducing
the worst effects of the virus (long
hospitalization and/or death) Gilead with
remdesivir is a case in point reducing hospital
stays from 15 to 11 days.**

**That which is of great interest today are other
already existing vaccines that are believed to
be, not cures, but mitigators. BCG, a
tuberculosis vaccine that has been around for
100 years and, OPV, a live polio vaccine are
showing great promise in their purported
ability to enable people to have less serious
symptoms from the virus if they are sickened
by it. Vaccines working in this way are said to
have nonspecific effects, that is, they are
helping the patient in ways for which the
vaccine was not originally intended. In any
event clinical trials are already under way on a
number of these existing vaccines with results
said to be available within a few months.**

“These old vaccines could buy us time and save thousands of lives...”

GREEN NEW DEAL:

So much pressure has fallen on the shoulders of so many millions of people that there has been a tectonic plate shift in attitudes.

Support for a new green deal has gone from 48% last May to 59% this spring. Backing for “Medicare for all” has gone from 47% last November to 53% in March, which was just at the beginning of the Covid outbreak. It can be reasonably assumed that figure is substantially higher today.

Andrew Yang is looking ever more prescient with his advocacy of a guaranteed income for everyone, and Pelosi has even said it may be worthy of attention.

Senator Edward Markey (D), co-sponsor of the Green New Deal resolution, says, “I do think there’s an FDR moment...” He continues, “ We can see that it is now time to discuss, universal child care, universal sick leave and a

guaranteed income for everyone in our society.”

This is apt to be as fiercely contested as the progressive ideas espoused by FDR. I would suggest, with the continuing shift in demographics, huge, painful disruptions caused by the virus and a Democratic Congress that these proposals not only have legs – they’re running.

BLAMING THE BOOMERS:

We are floating in a sea of disinformation and misinformation. I don’t hang out a lot on social media, but I read that millennials and members of Generation X (somebody’s got to explain all of this to me – each of these generation tagged names – what? – are all millennials made with the same cookie cutter?) Anyway, those two generational groups have scolded their Baby Boomer parents for not taking the coronavirus seriously enough.

Well how about this you Gen X and Millennial groupies – this is all manufactured news. A

national poll conducted by Morning Consult found that 87% of Baby Boomers were practicing social distancing while Gen X was at 83%, Millennials at 76% and Gen Z (wha- who are they?) at 73%. So, you youngins, just put a lid on it – a little more respect for Mom and Pops.

CHARLOTTESVILLE REDUX:

You all remember the awful scene in Charlottesville several years ago where extremists high jacked protests that were in support of retaining aspects of southern heritage. Well, they're at it again. These rallies we've been seeing on TV have ostensibly been protests by citizens wanting fewer restrictions mandated by various state governors.

The extremists have spread disinformation on the spread of the virus. They rail against "stay in place" orders as "medical martial law" and point to all of this being evidence of the long anticipated totalitarian state. They also throw into the mix their anti semitic and anti immigrant posters as well as their coded

messages. Coded messages? What is that all about? I confess I didn't know.

It turns out that a portion of these extremists are known as "Accelerationists". They believe in/anticipate a race war that will topple the U.S. Government and the pandemic is one of the possible igniters.

Now here comes the coding; this hungered for second civil war is labeled "The boogaloo". It has gone through several variations, including, "Big Igloo" and, "Big Luau", which is why many of the devotees wear Hawaiian shirts. They also like the terms, "Boojihadeen" and "the boog".

Not all are white supremacists, but they are all heavily into the hate culture. It is said there are 125 such groups on Facebook, more than 60 formed just this year. The Statue of Liberty is crying.

STANDING FOR PRESIDENT:

I have found one good thing about the pandemic – hours and hours to read. So,

everyday I am finding things I never knew or had forgotten. Political parties used to run election campaigns, not the candidate. The candidate STOOD for election, not RAN.

In 1892, the NY Times wrote, “The idea of a man promoting his own election disgusts the people.” Not unlike what many of us thought when Doctors and Lawyers started self-promoting a couple of decades ago.

The Atlantic Monthly referred to running for One’s election as, “vulgar self-assertion”, proving that a man was too narcissistic to hold high office.

That all changed in 1896 when the brilliant speaker, William Jennings Bryan, ran for president. He made 500 speeches in 100 days, covering 18,000 miles of railroad – and he lost. Perhaps the voters remembered the Atlantic Monthly article. In any event, Bryan changed campaigning forever. Today, you start running for re-election the day you’re elected.

**Your faithful scribe,
PB**

