

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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## **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“It was six men of Indostan  
to learning much inclined  
who went to see the elephant  
though all of them were blind  
that each by observation  
might satisfy his mind.”**

**And, as we all recall, each of the six touched  
only one part of the elephant, resulting in  
differing opinions as to what an elephant was.**

**“And so these men of Indostan  
disputed loud and long  
each in his own opinion  
exceeding stiff and strong  
though each was partly in the right  
and all were in the wrong.” By- John Saxe**

**What better fable to explain the dichotomy of opinions by U.S. voters, where, today, 90% of Democrats have a favorable opinion of president Biden, but only 37% of Independents do, down from 61%. It becomes clear we can't be speaking about the same person when we learn that 88% of Republicans have an unfavorable opinion of the president. Or, perhaps, as noted in the last issue, "my party right or wrong" provides the best explanation.**

**A recent poll shows that 20% of voters have, "Buyer's remorse" and regret having voted for Biden. The president's overall approval has plummeted to 46% while Trump's approval stands at 48%.**

**Even the journalistic, Biden lap dog, Chuck Todd, bemoans the administration's failures, making statements that would have you believe the wheels are coming off the wagon. Issues of note:**

- >The botched withdrawal from Afghanistan**
- >The killing of 10 innocents by drone attack**

**>The July 23<sup>rd</sup> call between Biden and Ghani where the president told him that there was a quid pro quo for our continuing air support for a brief time into the future. The president was quoted as saying, “Things aren’t going well in terms of the fight against the Taliban. There’s a need, whether it’s true or not to project another picture.”**

**>And, now, on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, we learn from Secretary of Defense, Austin and Generals McKenzie and Milley that they had advised we should retain 2,500 to 3,500 troops in Afghanistan for a longer period. The president denied that was their recommendation in an interview with George Stephanopolous. When questioned a second time, he waffled a bit saying, “No, no one said that to me that I can recall.” Columnist , Michael Goodwin, wrote, “Oh good, he’s hiding behind his declining mental faculties. The president is either a fool or a half -wit. How comforting.”**

**>The conflicting advice on Covid-19 vaxes**

**>The 12,000 Haitians released into the U.S., likely never to be found again.**

**>The bungling of the border prior to the Haitian crisis, resulting in tens of thousands of illegal immigrants being released into the U.S. And, guess what? 87% of them have failed to show up for their scheduled ICE meetings.**

**>The anger felt by European allies at our actions without consultation on Afghanistan.**

**>The blindsiding of France, as we snatched away a \$66 billion submarine deal.**

**With all of the above, the Democrats still think the president deserves a 90% approval rating-**

**DEMOCRAT READERS DON'T HIT THE DELETE BUTTON YET, REPUBLICANS SCREW UP TOO.**

**The most significant issue related to the Trump administration's efforts to discredit the election was the allegation (or, in their mind, the fact) that the software company, Smartmatic, had colluded with the voting machine company, Dominion, in stealing the election. Further, all of this was done in league with the financier, George Soros and Venezuela**

**All of this happened last November, but it only just came out on September 21<sup>st</sup> from court documents just released, that the Trump campaign had written a memo way back then. “The memo had determined that the allegations were untrue.” That was not Democratic disinformation. That was a Trump team conclusion, but the Republican politicians went for it anyway- big time!!**

**And then, we find out this week that a Republican financed recount of the ballots in Maricopa County, AZ., not only confirmed that Biden had won, but that his margin was even higher than originally reported. Not to be deterred, the Republican politicians are still tilting at windmills and seeking further recounts, both in Arizona and other states as well; all at a time when there is so much fodder to go after in the Democrat’s record book.**

**It amazes me that the Democrats with 29% of the electorate and the Republicans with 28% seem to keep chasing after- trying to please- their own people, seemingly failing to realize that, arguably, the most important people in**

**the game are the Independents who make up 40 % of the electorate.**

**Shakespeare said in “Henry the Fourth”- “The first thing we do, kill all the lawyers.” Were he witness to today’s political gyrations he might say, “The first thing we do, kill all the politicians.”**

## **DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN- NORTH KOREA**

**Kim Yo Jong, The trusted sister of N. K. leader, Kim Jong-Un, got the diplomatic set in a tizzy last week as she held out the hope for a peace summit to officially end the Korean War, saying that a summit, which would include the two Koreas, China and the U.S. could occur if, “the South can restore trust with the North.” The diplomats are so eager to hear what they want to hear that they’re not listening. They seem to think, “That’s easy- all the South has to do is tell the North, ‘hey, you can trust us’”. Ms. Kim Yo Jong has a different definition for “restoring trust”, as she pointed out that peace can only take place with two preconditions: S. Korea and the U.S. must terminate joint military exercises, and, the U.S. must withdraw**

**all troops and weapons from the South. Good luck on that!! Diplomats, listen more carefully.**

## **COAL'S THE GOAL**

**Travelling back to 2014, some of our readers may recall that John Kerry had secret meetings with Chinese leaders that led to a joint pledge to cut emissions. This led the following year to the Paris climate accord. Let's have a look at China and coal.**

**China has just announced that they will not build new coal-fired projects abroad. Wow! What a leader in reducing those noxious emissions! But, first, we have to understand the metrics by which progress is measured. So what is a gigawatt? It is enough to power 750,000 homes. The coal power China has helped produce outside of China produces less than 100 gigawatts and there are about 40 gigawatts of new coal power plant projects under development across twenty different countries. No precise number, but not all of them, are Chinese sponsored projects. So, 140 gigawatt projects outside China sounds like a big deal, right? A little perspective helps.**

**Last year China built more than three times more new coal powered capacity than all other countries in the world combined. But, how about China itself, where two thirds of its electricity comes from coal? Domestically, China produces 1,200 gigawatts of energy from coal. Your scribe was in China for three weeks in 1979. I hate to be gross, but awful stuff was still in my lungs and nose a month later. Come 2021, it doesn't seem like things have improved a lot. Wonderful to have such a great partner as China in emissions control- perhaps a candidate for next year's Greenpeace award.**

## **PAUL HARVEY, AND THE REST OF THE STORY**

**Paul is no longer with us, but we all loved his, "Rest of the story" revelations. In that spirit, your scribe offers this tid bit on the wines of France. An accepted "truth" I have always believed was that in the mid 1800s the European grape vines were nearly destroyed by a louse known as phylloxera. "The ravenous lice attacked the roots, choking off the nutrients to the rest of the plant." To save them, the French vintners grafted the European vines onto the resistant American**



**root stocks. So, in all my wine loving years, I've always "known", if it weren't for the American root stock there would be no French wines today -WRONG AND RIGHT. How did the phylloxera lice first come to France? Well, it turns out that in the mid 1800s vines native to the United States were brought over to Europe, and guess what? They carried the piggybacking phylloxera lice. The lice on the American root stock was responsible for wiping out the French vines, and, only subsequently, with the introduction of massive amounts of additional American, phylloxera root stocks, was the French wine industry able to recover. And now, you know the rest of the story.**

**Your faithful scribe,**

**PB**