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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“Please accept the best wishes from the entire Biden family as well as my partners.” 2017 E-mail from Hunter Biden to Chinese oil tycoon, Ye Jianming, asking him to wire \$10 million. Oh, and not to forget Ye’s strong feelings for Hunter, as he gave him the gift of a 2.8 carat diamond.

“PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY”

That was the phrase quoted by Tony Bobulinski, as having come from Joe Biden’s brother, Jim, when Bobulinski questioned him about the propriety of the business strategy of Sinohawk (the business entity, including Biden family members, of which Bobulinski was CEO). Propriety, referring to Bobulinski’s sense that Joe Biden would probably run again

for the White House, and that such foreign entanglements might prove embarrassing or compromising with regard to future American-Chinese negotiations.

Even though Joe Biden has been identified as, “the big guy” for whom 10% of the profits were to be held in safe keeping (initially by Hunter Biden and later by Jim Biden), it’s probably going to be difficult to make an airtight case for Joe Biden’s active knowledge and/or participation. As Jim Biden said, “Plausible deniability.”

Hunter Biden’s problems appear to be much more serious than a failure to report \$400,000 in payments from Burisma (the Ukraine energy company) As reported by Mark Moore, “A subpoena issued to Hunter Biden seeks information about his work with Burisma, his dealings in China as well as documents from more than two dozen entities.” Operation, Ostrich Obstruction, continues unabated at the NY Times and Washington Post as their head in the sand reaction to this story continues to warrant the exclusion of any coverage. What a surprise! The NY Times logo, “All the news

that's fit to print" has morphed into, "All the news we wish to print." Oh, and this just in, WAPO has published a large cartoon featuring Republicans as rodents- how adult. And let's not forget Jen Dillon, Joe Biden's campaign manager and incoming deputy chief of staff calling Republicans, "F---ers" – good start on bringing the country together.

Then there was yesterday's press conference when president elect Biden was asked if he still thought the Hunter Biden lap top disclosures were part of a, "Russian smear campaign". Mr. Biden replied, "Yes, yes, yes. God love you man. You are a one-horse pony."- a phrase no one had on their bingo card. Of course, he meant, "One trick pony." Let's cut him a little slack on that one. It's Christmas time.

As noted in issue 85, whether the whole Affair Biden comes in like a storm or out with a whimper in late January, depends on the Georgia Senate races, as does the likelihood of passing much of president elect Biden's legislative initiatives. The two Georgia races are now north of \$450,000,000 in

contributions. Democrats – Republicans – get your donations in now, let's put this baby over \$500,000,000.

ALL THINGS COVID – 19

VACCINATIONS: Everyone got your sleeves rolled up? Not so fast. When the experts first started debating the order in which people were to receive Covid-19 vaccinations, front line health care workers were first in line, followed by nursing home residents. The third group was to be adults over 65 with pre conditions. Then, all adults over 65.

Then an advisory panel to the CDC came in with new recommendations, effectively throwing those over 65 under the bus. The advisory group suggested a much broader group of Americans should have priority – those defined as, “Essential workers”- all 90 million of them; with millions more clamoring to get into that same category- hotel workers, uber drivers, etc. Don't know the politics involved, but they were surely at play as the newly published line up has, 1)Health care workers and those in long term care facilities.

2) Front line essential workers (30 million, not 90 million) and people 75 and older. 3) Other essential workers, adults with medical conditions and people over 65. 4) All other adults. So, everyone – hang in there and watch the news – you may be reshuffled on the list.

JUMPING THE QUEUE: Richard Thaler has an interesting, but probably impractical idea. He points out that vaccine demand will exceed supply for some time and quoting bioethicist, Arthur Caplan, “Anything that’s seen as life-saving, life-preserving and is in short supply, creates black markets.” In essence, Mr. Thaler posits that very wealthy individuals or groups will find a way to jump the line. Thaler recommends making this an above board event, rather than a hidden one. He advocates having a charity auction to benefit those who have suffered the most in the pandemic. Here the logic gets a little muddy- how do you administer such an effort? Anyway, he envisions the NBA, NHL, MLB and Hollywood studios being willing to pour millions into such auctions, thereby getting all of them into action for their fans, although chair bound in front of their TVs.

SUSEPTIBILITY TO COVID- 19: It's been accepted as dogma, right from the beginning that blacks and latinos got the virus at a much higher rate than whites and it was broadly assumed this was due to a racial (genetic) predisposition, perhaps similar to sickle cell anemia. Dr. Gbenga Ogedegbe of Langone Health has completed a lengthy study. Bottom line - there is no such predisposition. "These groups of people are more often exposed because of social and environmental factors." Dr. Ogedegbe continues, "It is all about where people live. It has nothing to do with genes."

THE BLAME GAME: Wow! The Chinese are really ramping up the "who's fault was it" game. First they vilified the Wuhan Doctor who was the whistle blower, who contracted the virus and died.

Most recently the Chinese propaganda machine has taken the comments of a prominent German scientist completely out of context suggesting that Italy, not China was the source of the pandemic. The Chinese headline reads, "China is innocent." So, if you don't

believe that statement, we have a potpourri for you to consider: Another group of Chinese scientists have opined that the virus probably started in India, and now the latest- Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist at the Chinese CDC says, “More and more evidence suggests that frozen seafood or meat products probably spread the virus from countries with the epidemic into our country.” With a pronouncement like that, president Xi is certain to hang the Order of the Republic around Wu’s neck – go Wu!!

JUST ONE MORE CONCERN: We are reading the virus has mutated, and dangerously so. Primarily affecting England to date, European countries and the U.S. have initially tried to stop travel from the UK, but the experts say this is folly, as the genie will have already escaped the bottle. It is encouraging however that British airlines are insisting that passengers to the U.S. test negative for Covid-19. What do we know about this mutation? – not a lot, except for two major things. One report says the mutation makes the virus 70% more transmissible. Let’s hope that statistic doesn’t hold up under further scrutiny. The

other news is that it is reported that the existing vaccines will be just as effective against the mutated virus as against the original virus- some good news!

The mutation, while apparently not yet much in evidence in the U.S., according to Dr. Jesse Bloom of the Hutchinson Cancer Center, “It’s a real warning that we need to pay closer attention.” And, from a colleague, Dr. Emma Hodcroft, “But the public should not necessarily be panicked.” Well, thank you doctors, and Merry Christmas to you to.

FROM HIGH UP AND FAR AWAY

And, no, that’s not Santa who is coming in tomorrow night with lots of goodies on his sleigh. Ever since I was a little tyke I was always fascinated by stories of UFOs (unidentified flying objects). I’ve never seen one and never been taken on board as some fabulists have claimed over the years. The government agencies, which have studied UFOs over the years have been able to explain most of them as atmospheric abberations,

aircraft, etc. However, a small number of sightings have never been properly explained.

It's only been in about the last three years that some levels of the government's secrecy have been peeled away from these inexplicable sightings.

We probably all saw, a little more than a year ago, the video reports of the naval aviators back in 2004 observing and chasing some of these phantoms. The tapes are grainy and don't really have any visual impact.

The other day, I just stumbled on this written description of the 2004 encounters as two F-18s, with four naval aviators on board observed the UFO. "The object has no wings or exhaust. It is white, oblong, some 40 feet long and 12 feet thick. One pilot pursues the craft while his wingman stay high. The pilots are astonished to see the object suddenly reorient itself towards the approaching F-18. In a series of discrete tumbling maneuvers that seem to defy the laws of physics, the object takes a position directly behind the approaching F-

18.” Not a good position to be in if you’re in a dog -fight.

The description continues, “The lengthy event occurred in broad daylight off the California coast. At one point the craft went from 80,000 feet, dropping at supersonic speed, coming to a complete stop just 50 feet above the ocean. More F-18s were dispatched from the aircraft carrier Nimitz with similar results. The UFO easily evaded the other F-18s. Dozens of military personnel aboard the various planes and ships were privy to these interactions.”

At the end of the day, no one in our government, nor anyone in the field of aeronautics can explain or conjure a way any country on earth could develop such aircraft.

UFOs and UAPs (unidentified aerial phenomena) are getting more attention these days along with a welcome greater willingness to share information by the U.S. government. For tomorrow, however, just keep your eye out for that sleigh silhouetted against the moon. Merry Christmas.

Your faithful scribe,

PB