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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“You can’t have open borders and a welfare state.” Milton Friedman, economist (deceased) Nobel Prize recipient.

GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR

Not so fast ! Going back to 2005 it was generally accepted that the U.S. had 11.3 million undocumented immigrants. How that precise figure came to be is anyone’s guess. In recent years there has been much talk about establishing a path to citizenship for them. But wait a minute, everyone was still throwing that 11.3 million figure around. Do you mean to say zero additional undocumenteds came in since 2005? I don’t think so. In 2018 several Yale professors did some modeling around that accepted number and found it totally out of date. Their estimate in 2018 was that the true current number was more like 22 million.

Additionally, under the Biden administration, as of September 2022, an additional 1 million have been admitted to await asylum hearings, with tens of thousands of others having slipped through our borders uncounted and therefore untraceable.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR ASYLUM?

The asylum seeker must prove one of two things, “past persecution” or a “well founded” (sounds subjective, and hence likely unprovable) fear of persecution if returned to country of origin based on one of five criteria: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

What a tough challenge to come up with a qualifying answer to that one. “Waldo, did you feel persecuted in Guatemala?” “Oh, yes sir, absolutely.” “Well, Waldo, welcome to the United States we are granting you asylum.” The difficulty in answering that question correctly is right up there with, “who’s buried in Grant’s tomb?”

HOW TO LOSE AN ELECTION

You may recall the death knell to Mitt Romney's run for president in 2012 was his statement at a fund-raiser that 47 million Americans paid no income taxes. That was a true statement, but 2/3 of them did pay a 4.2% automatically deducted payroll tax.

The point to be made here is that 32 million Americans (the 2/3) paying 4.2% payroll taxes, 16% (1/3) paying nothing, combined with more than 23 million asylum seekers or undocumented immigrants who now have to be fed, clothed, educated, given housing and medical care is just not a sustainable model. The U.S. has become a welfare state. We cannot have open borders.

If you want a properly run welfare state, call it socialism or whatever, you have to have the Danish model – some of the best educated and happiest people in the world – a country where it is exceedingly hard to gain entry and become a citizen, and where, once you become a citizen, the government takes almost half your

income in taxes – for what? To provide one of the best standards of living in the world.

The miserable lives so many already live in our decimated “inner cities” are only further diminished by our border policies. What a noble thought, “Give me your tired your poor”, but someone please explain how the U.S. model can survive.

A TANGENTIAL OBSERVATION/QUESTION

Do you know the gestation period for a hamster is only 16 days? I’m surprised that hamsters don’t rule the earth. It’s quite a bit longer for humans – nine months, but even so, my, how our numbers have grown.

I became aware of a statistic I am about to report a number of years ago. I was incredulous, but have seen it republished numerous times and never refuted, so I guess I have to go along with it.

Four hundred years ago 104 passengers arrived on our shores aboard the Mayflower. The first winter was brutal leaving only 57

survivors. Four hundred years later those 57 people have 35 million descendants.

If it takes 400 years for a universe of 57 to balloon to 35million, what is the size of the universe going to be, starting with 23 million undocumented migrants, in 25, 50 or 100 years? Thinking that some math genius might have already thought of such a question, I went digging.

The question to be answered: A population in 1950 was 20 million and in 1970, 42 million. What will the population be after 70 years in 2020?

Into the fray step two professors, Rambabu Dontu from Hyderabad, India and David Cox from Australia. I just know you are dying to know Dontu's equation: $P(t) = P_0 / e^{\{K/cd}$.

Are you still with me? Anyway Dontu's conclusion is that after 70 years we wind up with 268.4 million. Using another formula, Cox comes up with 271.9 million.

So dear readers, there's no sense wringing your hands about it, it's the new reality. It would be nice if we could hope for the same fortuitous results that came from the huge numbers of Italians, Irish, Asians and Scandinavians who migrated to the country over the past two hundred years. This crystal ball is pretty cloudy. For all our progeny we can only hope for the best.

In 70 years (2092) our great grandchildren will be living in a different world. If Mr. Dontu is correct, the 23 million undocumented in the U.S. today will be replaced by approximately 270 million new Americans (remembering that anyone born in the U.S. is a citizen, even if the parents are not). White anglo/saxon Christians will be a tiny percent of the population - a curiosity really. Perhaps the Smithsonian will have one mounted in a large bell jar.

**“DON'T TAKE YOUR GUNS TO TOWN SON,
LEAVE YOUR GUNS AT HOME” song by Johnny
Cash.**

A study published by John Hopkins in September, 2022 found that, “thirty-four states with right to carry laws saw a 24% increase in firearm assaults.”

With crime being one of the top worries of Americans, their perceived protection is pure chimera. That shield, of course, is to buy your own handgun. The past three years have seen the highest level of purchases ever, 19.9 million legal gun sales, just in 2021 alone.

Your scribe, being a former FBI agent, who hadn't fired a gun in years, even purchased a 9MM in 2021. Not content with that, I applied for and received a “concealed carry” permit.

The Supreme Court had recently decreed that with only a few restrictions, most Americans should be allowed to carry their guns and you better believe they are doing just that, with visions of Clint Eastwood, “Make my day” dancing in their heads.

Folks, this is all just such a bad idea. You can go to the shooting range, take the proper stance, squeeze off ten rounds at a silhouette target

fifteen feet away and feel reasonably competent.

Out on the street? Forget about it! Unless you practice frequently, handguns are notoriously inaccurate, compounded by the fact that if an actual encounter occurs, the adrenaline is coursing and the heart is pounding and you jerk instead of squeeze the trigger.

We have only to point out the photo in a NY Post story- one guy is trying to shoot another person only ten feet away. Instead he hit and kills a little girl twenty feet away at a 30 degree variance from where he thought he was shooting.

And then the guy in Houston this year. He was robbed after getting cash from an ATM. As the thief fled, he pulled out his gun and killed a ten year old girl by accident

So, you are accosted by a guy with a knife or gun. He has the advantage. What are you going to do, say, "Just give me a couple of seconds to pull my gun from my holster or purse? I don't think so. Or, perhaps he threatens you without

displaying a weapon; you pull your gun and shoot him. Your defense- "I was so scared." Well, my friend, you are facing manslaughter charges.

Maybe you sleep with your gun under your bed and you hear an intruder. You grab the gun and confront him. He turns to flee and you shoot him. In most states, he now becomes the victim and once again you are facing manslaughter charges. An exception is Florida where they have a "stand your ground" law which gives the homeowner more rights.

So, here's my take. I use my concealed carry permit to take my gun to the firing range, experiencing a momentary Clint Eastwood rush. Other than that, I'm with Johnny, "Don't take your guns to town son."

MEDICINE CABINET

Check with your doctor first, but for those taking hyper tension (blood pressure) medication I have seen at least four articles over the past year emphasizing the importance of timing in taking medication.

As reported in the August 13, 2022 NT Times, in general you get better protection by taking your pills at night rather than in the morning, but specifically, you do much better by taking blood pressure medication at night.

The article reports, Researchers followed 20,000 patients (average age 60.5 years) for six years divided into one group who took hypertensive medication in the morning with the other group taking their pills at night. “Those who took their hypertensive medication in the evening nearly halved their risk of cardiovascular death, including heart failure and stroke. Worth investigating if you are a morning pill person.

TV CORNER

Your scribe was surfing the tube on a recent evening when he stumbled across a revised version of “The Price is Right” and, Oh my God, there was the host, Jay Leno, looking absolutely terrible. I was mesmerized by the stupidity of the show – idiotic questions about the lives of the Kardashians and goofy contestants. What is Leno thinking? He’s a

zillionaire. This show should be named, “Dumb and Dumber.” – so sad!

On a brighter note – another surfing discovery six months ago, but probably no surprise to most of our readers. Turner Classic Movies is fabulous. Every day is a full day of all the great old time movies with full schedules on line.

Yes, we have our stars today, but the sheer number of great stars going back 30 to a hundred years years ago is staggering – just great entertainment for anytime you have a couple of free hours.

“Moment of Contact” is a fascinating streaming documentary (just out) by James Fox about UFO sightings in Varginha, Brazil in 1996, including the sighting of living beings by several individuals. Any one of the disclosure pieces might not be that convincing, but there are so many that it makes a whole credible fabric. Rotten Tomatoes audience rating, 100%. Expensive- \$19.95 – watch with friends, but worth it.

Your faithful scribe, PB

