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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“Just the facts ma’am, just the facts.” Sgt. Joe Friday interviewing females on “Dragnet”, old TV detective series

FACTS AND TRUTH OR “FACTS” AND “TRUTHS”

Oh, my gosh – who knows? I certainly don’t. I just report on what I read, hear and see with as many journalistic filters and cross checks as I can muster. Let’s start off with some input from a couple of HH loyal readers.

One reader points out that I have been snookered by virtually all of the press (Blue and Red), Biden is NOT the president elect, he is the presumptive president elect. Presumptive, because there are legitimate challenges in progress which, if upheld, could deny Biden the presidency.

Another reader adds input from Pam Bondi who was Florida AG from 2011- 2019.(a big Trump supporter). Bondi points out that Gore was called president elect for 30 days in 2000 until the courts ruled against him and declared Bush the winner.

Bondi goes on to note that SCOTUS could either rule that all improper ballots, due to fraud or mistakes, be removed and recounts made, or, that the election is invalid due to massive voter fraud (unsubstantiated at this time). In case the election is declared invalid, the congress votes on who becomes president (Senate votes on the Vice President) and each state has one vote. There are 30 Republican states and 19 Democratic states. Here, Ms. Bondi is incorrect according to Reuters Legal News feature “Explainer” which advises there are 26 Republican delegations, and 22 Democratic. One delegation is split evenly and the remaining one, comprised of 7 Democrats, 6 Republicans and one Libertarian. This is all covered under the 12th Amendment to the Constitution. You can see, however, how the Republican delegations have the upper hand.

If for any reason the House has not declared a president by January 20th, the Speaker of the House would serve as acting president.

In any event, even reaching the Supreme Court seems unlikely today, as it is widely reported in the NY Times and other news services that election officials nationwide have found no fraud. But wait a minute – “election officials” make that statement? Isn’t that like the fox checking on the chicken coop?

Let’s look at Georgia, Arizona, Wisconsin, Nevada and Pennsylvania the president is behind by about a total of 120,000 votes. The important thing is what votes are being contested in each state. So the question has to be asked, how much fraud has to be found in Pennsylvania to overcome the current Trump deficit of 43,251 votes?

Miranda Devine in the NY Post reports that the NY Times, “once reported the truth that mail-in voting is the most vulnerable to fraud. That is why most developed countries ban the practice.” Along comes Trump’s legal team contending that 600,000 ballots in

Pennsylvania, “are in question because they were counted without any poll watchers observing to ensure they were legitimate as state law requires.” True or false? I don’t have a clue.

Regarding the sanctity of elections, whether mail-in or otherwise, Ms. Devine can’t help reminding us of how Joe Kennedy, working with the Mafia in Chicago, helped ensure the election of his son, JFK, in 1960, where massive numbers of dead people voted and 677 election officials were subsequently indicted – didn’t seem to interfere with JFK taking the oath of office. Face it, when it comes to elections, people have been gaming the system from the earliest days.

Trying to pull everything together and come up with a consensus of what the media is reporting; yes, we are seeing scattered allegations of voter fraud, but these reports seem of no consequence against the totality. What could, of course, change that would not be fraud, per se, but improperly observed counting such as alleged in Pennsylvania. In any event, as discussed in the last issue,

Trump's team has every legal right to pursue all these avenues prior to conceding. This is an uncomfortable, but by no means unique process. In reflection of all this confusion, a Morning Consult poll reflects that seven out of ten Republicans, "doubt that the 2020 election was, 'free and fair'".

ENEMIES LISTS

With all the nastiness that politics entails, memories and grudges can last a long time (major exception being the rapprochement effected by Harris and Biden after she excoriated him in the presidential debates).

In any event, we now have three individuals spewing such bitterness, they make Nixon's enemy list look lame by comparison.

Ocasio-Cortez supports the idea of her side keeping lists of Trump supporters, writing on Twitter, "Is anyone archiving these Trump sycophants for when they try to downplay or deny their complicity in the future?"

Then we have Hari Sevugan, formerly national press secretary for the DNC Tweeting his support for the Trump Accountability Project aimed at preventing all who worked in the Trump administration from gaining future employment.

Washington Post reporter, Jennifer Rubin wrote that, “Trump supporters should never serve in office, join a corporate board, find a faculty position or be accepted into ‘polite society’. We have a list.”

Such high minded people – the threads with which to stitch the country back together.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

Good news, at least from my respective. In the last issue, I commented that in the failure to replace ACA, as had been promised, I believed there were humane, practical and constitutional reasons to keep ACA, even though modified. All those who have been shuddering over the prospects of a supposedly 6-3 conservative/liberal SCOTUS can relax a little on this issue as Chief Justice Roberts and

Justice Kavanaugh, by their questioning and comments have indicated they see the benefit of constitutional “severability”, in that they can see ACA surviving even though the “insurance mandate” may be separated from the law. We won’t know the final answer until June, but this is an encouraging glimpse at the court’s thinking. So much for slotting justices into presumed ideologies.

THE TWO GEORGIA SENATE RACES

Anticipating up to \$200 million that might be spent on these two races to determine whether the Republicans or Democrats secure control the Senate, some of the Blue supporters are even encouraging people to move to Georgia in order to be able to vote for their candidates. For both sides the result is critical. The Democrats win and they have a trifecta - presidency, congress and senate, resulting in a Democratic free hand in legislation. A win by the Republicans ensures a controlling hand on all legislation. This is going to be 54 days of intense political warfare - hope none of the candidates are discovered to have done something stupid in tenth grade.

But, who knows about, or considers, the hidden Republican Senate vote – West Virginia Senator, Joe Manchin. He is a Democrat in name only. A highly popular Senator, he presides in a highly Republican state. Interviewed just two days ago, he swore that he would never vote for packing the courts or ending the filibuster. No telling how many other Republican issues he would support. He knows what his constituents want.

VOTER FRAUD IN EXTREMIS

It's true, but sorry my Republican friends - not in America. No, to discover this heinous crime we have to go down under to New Zealand where every year they have a vote for Bird of the year. Seems that in this year's voting, between 1AM and 3AM someone snuck in 1,500 fake votes for the Kiwi Pukupku. Until this "pack the ballot box" effort the antipodean Albatross had been favored. In turn, the albatross had been fighting off a stiff challenge from the "exquisitely perfumed" Kakapo. Probably headed for the NZ supreme court.

Your faithful scribe, PB

