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We're not as stupid as they think

Steve Bakke  August 8, 2022



I'm going to summarize several issues I've recently discussed because I want to keep these debates alive. I'll stay away from repeating a lot of facts and statistics and rely on common-sense to help drive home reasonable conclusions.

"Look, the border is secure!" So says Homeland Security secretary Mayorkas. I guess I'm supposed to divert my "lying eyes." Millions of illegal immigrants are entering annually, largely at our "watery" borders with Mexico. And lethal drugs are pouring over the uncontrolled border. Our common-sense attempt to employ a border barrier as part of the solution was immediately discontinued by the current administration. Unused materials lay rusting on the ground.

Career border officials believe in the value of a barrier at the border to manage and discourage illegal entry. A wall is intended to provide a tool for order and control of cross-border traffic. A barrier effectively slows down potential illegal crossings and stops or influences actions of prospective illegal immigrants. It provides border officials time to react. A barrier isn't an end in itself. Rather, it's just one part of a border security system, alongside advanced technology.

"But they'll just get ladders" say some doubters. Nonsense! There will be no "second coming of storming the Bastille" with thousands of people and ladders charging the border wall and piling over. Who do they think they're fooling?

We have record inflation. Setting aside the effect of poor energy policy on this inflation, it's apparent that too much liquidity is chasing too few goods. We should be doing things to stimulate the production of high demand items. It makes no sense that the administration is pushing for, and achieving, more "Build Back Better" spending, thereby increasing inflationary pressure.

Consider the recently enacted "Inflation reduction act." The OMB, far left Senator Bernie Sanders, and many prominent economists, believe that title is fiction. Perhaps the hidden mischief will soon

be obvious. In reality, much of this spending is intended to cram down an unwise and impetuous rapid transition to 100% green energy. Let's get smarter.

Consider the issue of fossil fuels. Common sense tells me that the infrastructure necessary to support our fleet of "planes, trains, and automobiles," can't be accomplished in time for the hoped-for "100% electric vehicles by 2035." Imagine the infrastructure required for "green" power generation adequate for charging hundreds of millions of vehicles and powering all aspects of our society. It can't be accomplished in a few years.

Many experts doubt fossil-free energy generation can be accomplished without significant reliance on nuclear power, which is green and dependable. Unfortunately green energy zealots have sworn-off nuclear power. Battery storage is supposedly the savior, but current battery performance is far from adequate, and we depend significantly on China to supply the minerals needed in battery production.

Whatever one's opinion about eliminating fossil fuels, let's agree that if that goal is pursued, it must be done in a way that improves the likelihood of affordable and effective results? We must never replace any energy source until an affordable and effective alternative is available. Tragically, that's what we're doing.

U.S. gun deaths is a tragic problem that's getting worse. Part of the problem is the impatience of our legislators. Let's stop the futile screaming for immediate answers. Stop trying to pass legislation before the dead are buried. Stop insisting that the only solution is gun control legislation. Stop the immediate finger-pointing and blame.

First things first! A careful analysis of current gun control laws must be performed. What works? What doesn't? What would work but isn't being performed? How about enforcing laws? Those questions are an important start – but only a start. Let's stop producing unhelpful feel-good solutions.

A "perfect storm" is gathering. It results from combining serious problems with foolish "fixes." At best, too many bad solutions create economic and societal sluggishness. Americans have been asked to carry many heavy millstones around their necks. The foolishness I've discussed herein represents only a few. Those in charge seem blind to the potential harm of bad outcomes.

Remember President Reagan's words: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."