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WHAT WERE THEY THINKING? – Episode 5 – Pandemic Edition

By Steve Bakke  May 22, 2020



I thought I would be taking a break from my “What Were They Thinking?” series during the pandemic lockdown. But absurd statements, thoughts and ideas keep rolling in.

- Sophia Lewis, a scholar at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research and a frequent university guest speaker is suggesting that the pandemic should push Americans to abolish the family. You must read her comments to actually realize someone would think like that.
- “It’s funny,” Bernie Sanders mused, “sometimes American journalists talk about how bad a country is because people are lining up for food. That’s a good thing. In other countries, people don’t line up for food; rich people get the food and poor people starve to death.” Bernie must be quite happy these days.
- “The number is down because we brought the number down, God did not do that. Faith did not do that. Destiny did not do that. A lot of pain and suffering did that. That’s how it works. It’s math.” – Governor Cuomo – Maybe he can give God a little credit for inspiring some of those experiencing suffering, helping them get through it.
- “This is what unfettered capitalism is all about. Trump demands low income workers in meatpacking plants.....work.....or lose their unemployment checks and go hungry.” – Bernie Sanders isn’t getting all his facts right regarding that painful issue.
- “China always stands against disinformation campaign. We are victim rather than producer of disinformation.” – Chinese Foreign Ministry
- “I don’t think [the House impeachment managers] had any idea how much damage [Trump] would go on to do in the months ahead.....I don’t think we would have ever anticipated that his brand of narcissism and his brand of incompetence, sometimes his brand of malevolence, would be so fatal to the American people.” – Rep. Adam Schiff
- “If an American president loses more Americans over the course of six weeks than died over the entirety of the Vietnam war, does he deserve to be reelected?” – New York Magazine’s Olivia Nuzzi to President Trump at a briefing.
- “The governors are impatient.....they should be. Their impatience will help get an even bigger number.” That’s a lesson in partisan tactics from Nancy Pelosi. It smacks of “Never let a crisis go to waste.”
- Nancy Pelosi objected to Trump’s late January Chinese travel ban and then she promoted legislation which would limit presidential power to restrict travel such as he did for China.
- “As far as I’m concerned, what’s happening with this administration, it’s akin to war crimes.” – Rep. Ayanna Pressley

- Referring to re-opening the economy, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez stated that: “No, we’re not going back to that. We’re not going back to working 70-hour weeks just so that we could put food on the table and not even feel any sort of semblance of security in our lives.”
- MyPillow CEO Michael Lindell showed up at the White House to pledge conversion of 75% of his manufacturing capacity to producing face masks. It was intended to be an inspirational message, and for Lindell, that means somewhat faith based. NBC merely mocked him with this headline: “Trump fluffs MyPillow in Rose Garden.”
- Sally Kohn, liberal political commentator, demonstrated her business and economic acumen (lack of) with this remark: “I’m really tired of reading how business owners are ‘forced’ to lay off workers. No one made them do that. They ‘chose’ to do that.....”
- “We need to cancel rent until this crisis is over.” – Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar, also demonstrating her vast business and economic knowledge. Doesn’t she understand the reality of “cash flow pays bills”?
- “Coronavirus gives us an opportunity to revamp our electoral system so that it permanently becomes more inclusive and becomes easier for the American people to access.” – Obama Attorney General, Eric Holder.
- “.....may be relevant to note that there is a long, close association between rightwing activism and medical quackery.” – New York Times economist Paul Krugman
- “Everyone understands that the environment has impacted on this coronavirus and mounting evidence of that.” – Joe Biden – I think I know what he said, but I’m not sure.
- “You know, 45 nations had already moved to.....block China’s personnel from being able to come to the United States before the president moved.” – Joe Biden – Joe, it ain’t so!

Stay tuned. I’m sure there will be more on the way.