



# ALL EARS!!

THE LITCHFIELD FUND WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**"OUR EARS SPAN ALL FIELDS"**



**SILENCE** is the final, last desperate weapon of hate. When the truth can no longer be hidden. When the lies no longer have any impact. When the propaganda fails. When no amount of intimidation keeps the truth from being spoken. When people stop listening to lies & begin to understand what is true. Then the haters act to silence. There is a long list of people whose truth *'needed'* to be silenced. Socrates, Jeremiah, Jesus Christ, Saint Paul, Joan of Arc, Giordano Bruno, Galileo, Émile Zola, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Solzhenitsyn, Gandhi, Nehru, Salman Rushdie & a young man of amazing deep faith, a husband & father, who spoke for & mobilized a generation, were all silenced by hate.

**SILENCED BY HATE:** Silence is a weapon used by totalitarian rulers. Emperors, kings, queens, princes & popes. Despots & thugs. Fascists & communists. Socialists. The Democrat Party. Liberals. School boards & city councils. College administrators. These fascists want no feedback. No input. No thoughtful discussion. No dialogue. No new ideas. No criticism. They want silence. George Orwell described how silence was a tool, a weapon, of totalitarianism. Mass silence enables their lies; it allows the lies to stay alive & grow. Silence keeps society under control; it keeps dissenting thoughts from being heard. It allows their faithful followers to become more radicalized. Their desire to silence people is driven by their hate. This hate is deep, all encompassing & evil. Think of all the reasons they hate! They hate you if you are white. They hate you if you are black or Hispanic & don't agree with them. They hate you if you are male. They hate you if you are a woman who wants to be married & have children. They hate you if you are Christian. They hate you if you are Jewish. They hate you if you support Israel. They hate you if you pray, go to church or synagogue, read the Bible. They hate you if you refused to get a vaccine. They hate you if you didn't wear a mask. They hate you if you are rich & successful. They hate you if you are working hard & shopping at Walmart. They hate you if you are poor but want to do better, on your own, without any help. They hate you if you do not fear climate change. They hate you if you drive a Tesla. They hate you if you say there are only two genders. They hate you if you stand up at a school board meeting & say stop indoctrinating, perverting & molesting our children. They hate you if you are conservative. They hate you if you are Republican. They hate you, really hate you, if you are MAGA & a Trump supporter. They hate you if you say America First. They hate you if you responsibly own a gun. They hate you if you are willing to defend yourself, your family, your community. They hate you if you are pro-life. They hate you if you believe all lives matter! They hate you if you point out their BLM idol was a career criminal who died of an overdose while being arrested by a cop in Minnesota. They hate you if you point out a career mentally ill criminal who is black killed a white immigrant young lady from Ukraine on a bus in Charlotte. They hate you if you praise a veteran who was on the subway in New York & saved everyone from a vicious criminal. They hate you if you ask, *"Why are so many children getting so sick?"* They hate you if you ask, *"What is in those vaccines?"* They hate you if you ask, *"Hey, what chemicals are in our food that are poisoning us?"* And oh my, how they hate you if you ask, *"Could these hormones & puberty blockers be causing already mentally ill people who think they are the opposite sex to shoot school children?"* They hate you if you believe government officials, elected or appointed, should be honest, & if they are not, be held accountable. They hate you if you believe government should be small, efficient & work in the best interest of the American people. They hate you if you are a cop or federal agent removing illegal aliens & violent criminals from the streets. They hate you if you suggest the federal government should help remove illegal aliens, violent criminals, drug users & the mentally ill from the streets of our cities. They hate you so much, they refuse to jail criminals. They hate you so much, they try to stop illegal aliens from being deported. They hate you so much they get upset if a boat filled with drugs destined to kill our citizens is blown out of the sea. And they really hate you if you point out it is they who use every tactic practiced by totalitarian rulers, fascists, Nazis & communists! They hate you if you point out their lies, propaganda & hypocrisy. And they hate you if your voice enters the marketplace of ideas. And they hate you if your voice has the power to influence people & change hearts, minds & souls. They hate you if you are effective in messaging, persuading, convincing, because their message is not connecting with people & they can no longer use intimidation or fear to gain compliance & silence. So they turn to hate. Hate that begins & spouts from an ex-President who refuses to recognize that the American people now know the truth about him, that he is no longer relevant & that America have moved on to a better future. From aging party leaders who have stolen hundreds of millions of dollars from the American taxpayer! From a squad of young America-hating ex-bartenders, brother marry-ers, foreign-country-first sharia law advocates & racists who sit in Congress. They hate & their hate is supported by the media & on social media. Yes, people support them! People vote for these haters. So it is not surprising it is their followers, their loyal supporters (many who are willing to commit voter fraud to get them elected) who tried twice to kill the President of the United States. Try to interfere with ICE & Border Patrol arresting people who illegally enter the country. Riot, loot & burn cities. Vandalize Teslas. Perform life altering surgeries on little children. Force vaccinations. Praise criminals. Steal baseballs from little boys. This week, some people, people we encounter in or daily lives like medical professionals, teachers & educational administrators, government workers & elected officials, evilly celebrated a political assassination intended to permanently silence an important voice for freedom: a handsome 31-year-old man of faith, a husband & father of two, who believes in God & the American Dream, with 84M social media followers, who shows up on college campuses & in the best tradition of the American Town Hall, says what no fascist has ever said, *"If you disagree with me, step to the front of the line. Ask me anything! I welcome your questions & thoughts. Let's discuss! Prove me wrong."* This act of political terrorism is also an attempt to silence all of us! To show us what will happen if we speak our minds. Post on social media. Quietly pray in public. Write a blog or newsletter. Lead a popular podcast. They want us all to be silenced! Charlie Kirk awoke a generation of young people. To America. To the American Dream. To the principles of government. To Free Speech. To open & thoughtful debate. To Jesus Christ. Like the Black September Olympics, the Marine barracks in Beirut, September 11, October 7 & dozens of other acts of evil, this week hateful ideology spurred an act of political terrorism to once again try to silence people. To silence our American system of belief, ideals & thought. To silence Free Speech. It's time for those who believe in, support & vote for this hateful ideology to wake up & ask themselves if they are the kind of person that embraces this evil intolerance, this hate? To look in the mirror & try to see the truth. To see the vile, the bile, they

have supported & created. To stop supporting the evil that caused these acts of terrorism! To see the true, very real, evil. Charlie was hated & murdered because he was effective! From Churchill, "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." Charlie's message, his spirit, his influence, will not be silenced by hate. The people he influenced will carry his message. They will not be intimidated. They will not be fearful. They will not be silenced. They will be loud & multiple. From Kierkegaard, "The tyrant dies & his rule is over, the martyr dies & his rule begins."

**INDUSTRY NEWS:** *Nutrabolt* (C4 owner) increased its investment in supplement & beverage brand *Bloom Nutrition* by \$160M to \$240M. *Durational Capital* made a strategic growth investment in *Garage Beer* at a \$200M valuation. *LocalExpress*, unified AI commerce platform for grocery retailers, raised \$6.2M led by *OXZ Capital*. *Good Agriculture* raised \$1.5M for its farm back office management platform, the round was led by *Nicely Road*. In the UK, *Messium*, satellite captured crop data, raised £3.3M co-led by the *UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund & Expansion Aerospace Ventures* with *Mudcake*, *Laconia*, *GRDC GrainInnovate*, *Clear Current Capital*, *Moonstone Venture Capital* & *SuperSeed* participating. In Finland, *SuperGround* raised €1.15M for its system that more completely utilizes fish harvests; *CHECK 24 Impact & Propeller Ventures* led the round. *Nitricity*, organic fertilizer from upcycled almond shells, raised \$50M co-led by *World Fund & Khosla Ventures* with *Chipotle's Cultivate Next* venture fund, *Change Forces*, *Susquehanna Sustainable Investments*, *Energy Impact Partners* & *Fine Structure Ventures* involved. Lisbon-based *BRAINR* raised €11M led by *C2 Capital* for its food manufacturing management platform. The original founders will re-acquire cannabis beverage brand *Levia* from *Ayr Wellness*. *Natra*, a European producer of private label & co-manufactured chocolate products, acquired Dutch supplier *Bredabest*, a maker of peanut butter & peanut-based ingredients. *Calbee* acquired a majority stake in plant-based food maker *Hodo*; *Sagamiya*, a Japan-based tofu manufacturer, took a minority stake in *Hodo*. *Diageo* sold *Sheridan's Coffee Layered Liqueur* to Portugal-based *Casa Redondo*. *Spiribam*, a global spirits producer & distributor, acquired French organic vodka brand *Le Philtre*. *Jungbunzlauer* is acquiring a Thomson, IL multipurpose production site from *International Flavors & Fragrances*. *Philly Pretzel Factory* acquired *Cone Guys* to diversify its product portfolio & expand into the dessert category. Frozen food maker *MBC Companies* acquired Texas family-owned frozen pizza producer *Alpha Foods*. *Industrial Opportunity Partners (IOP)* acquired *Charcuterie Artisans*, the parent company of premium charcuterie & meat brands *Daniele* & *Creminelli Fine Meats*. *Seaboard Foods* acquired three hog farms to supply the company's pork processing plant in Guymon, OK. *RaceTrac* will acquire all of the outstanding shares of *Potbelly* in an all-cash deal worth \$566M. *Georgia-Pacific* acquired *Anchor Packaging* (rigid food containers & cling wrap) from private equity firm *TJC*. In India, *UnCrave*, faux plant-based meat maker founded by fresh meat & seafood company *Licious*, ceased operations. In Brazil, the *Marfrig-BRF* merger was approved.

*Kroger* posted solid 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR results, beating estimates & raising its full year outlook. *Sobey's* parent *Empire* reported 1<sup>st</sup> QTR revenue & earning just slightly higher than a year ago. *Mission Produce* posted across the board gains in 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR.

*Trader Joe's* announced new stores planned in seven different states. *Lidl* opened a new store in Woodbridge, Virginia. *Heinen's* opened its fifth Illinois store in Naperville. *Sprouts Farmers Market* will hire more than 400 employees to support upcoming store openings. *Target* is opening seven new stores this fall across Arizona, California, Florida, Nebraska, South Carolina, Texas & Virginia, with six of the seven stores larger than the retailer's average 125K sq. ft. *Safeway* will close 12 grocery stores across Colorado, New Mexico & Nebraska. *Walmart* will bring back drone deliveries at its Bentonville, AR, supercenter & from a supercenter in South Dallas. *KeHe* is now the primary distributor of specialty foods for all 283 *Total Wine & More* locations in 29 states. *Hy-Vee* will use *Instacart Carrot Ads*. In the UK, *Tesco* is using in-store avocado scanners that allow shoppers to check the ripeness. *Lifeway Foods* introduced a new beverage with 20 grams of protein, 12 live & active probiotic cultures & 5 grams of creatine. *Huel* launched a RTD beverage in three fruit & herb flavors with 42 vitamins, minerals, superfoods, adaptogens, 4 grams of dietary fiber with 1 gram of sugar & 25 calories per can. *Nature's Path Foods* is adding two new protein-filled granola varieties. *Godshall's Quality Meats* is launching a new *Chicken Bacon*. Israel's *Strauss Group* will launch 'cow-free' drinks & cream cheese featuring faux-whey protein from *Imagindairy*. *Eat Just* is bringing *Just Meat*, which is plant-based faux chicken, to the USA in Texas. *Quorn*, one of the original ultra-processed faux-meats, will be cutting its additives. *UNFI* opened a new distribution center in Sarasota. Almost 300 workers were expected to be laid off by *Perdue Farms* at their Washington, IN facility. *Cole's Quality Foods*, maker of frozen garlic bread, breadsticks, knots & Texas toast, closed its frozen bread production plant in Muskegon, MI. *High Plains Processing* will begin operating in a \$500M facility built by *South Dakota Soybean Processors* in South Dakota. Also, hundreds of the UK's largest grocery stores may have to close due to an increase in property taxes. More than 140 warehouse workers at *Smith's Food & Drug*, a wholly owned subsidiary of *Kroger*, voted to authorize a strike in Las Vegas. Federal border patrol & ICE agents detained dozens of employees *Nutrition Bar Confectioners* plant in Cato, NY. *ADM*, *PepsiCo* & *Mars* will partner to support 24 farmers on 13K acres in adopting regenerative agricultural practices. *Cracker Barrel* will stop their remodels due to consumer outrage. *Chipotle* will expand to Asia through a joint venture with *SPC Group* beginning with South Korea & Singapore. Mexico has banned 35 pesticides. The Trump administration issued a National Farm Security Action Plan to ban future Chinese Communist Party-linked farmland purchases, reclaim existing land & imposes fines. *Onego Bio* sued *The Every Company*, saying its competitor withheld information concerning production methods in its patent application. *Ben & Jerry's* is trying to break free from *Unilever's* ice cream portfolio sale & gain its independence to continue spouting hate & antisemitism. After months of mediation attempts, *Market Basket* fired its CEO. Mike Häfeli will succeed Johannes Wick as *Bühler's* CEO. Greg McNiff will be the new CEO at *Stater Bros*.

From *USA Today*, readers selected *The Fresh Market* as the number one grocery store, followed by *Hy-Vee*, *Fresh Thyme Market*, *Natural Grocers*, *Stew Leonard's*, *Gelson's Markets*, *ALDI*, *Heinen's*, *Publix* & *Wegmans*. USA online grocery sales reached \$11.2B in August 2025, up 14% YOY, a record monthly high, according to *Brick Meets Click*. Avocado prices are falling as Mexican imports rise. Consumer bread prices are lower & consumer flour prices are flat in August.

**MARKET NEWS:** Markets were higher this week. Markets hit a record highs, the DOW passed 26,000 for the first time & the Nasdaq closed the week above 22,000. The Producers Price Index came in well below expectations at negative 0.1% for August & 2.6% YOY, proving the TDS suffering economists & so called experts shouting, "Tariffs will cause inflation," wrong again! The CPI came in at 2.9% YOY as expected. The new jobs created figure from the last year of the lying Biden administration (April 2024 to March 2025) was reduced by 911K! The unemployment rate took a sudden jump as schools, media, hospitals, airlines, cities, states & federal employers terminated employees who used social media to post vile & hate celebrating the death of a husband, father & patriot. July home sales rose 2%. August filled American coffers with a record \$31B in tariff collection.

**SEEDS, SPROUTS, GROW, HARVEST!**

THE LITCHFIELD FUND – *Tom Malenka*

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