



rRemarks Data for September 15, 2026 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Ungari

Comment: I have spent more time in my front yard this summer and all I see are trucks and cars going up and down Seeley Ave all day long from Warren to Ogden. We are one of the streets that go from Ogden to Warren. I believe the straightest and quickest street west of Saratoga.

When I moved to Seeley 36 years ago, a neighbor said it is a nice street except it goes to Ogden. I didn't think of it much then or for many years, but after this summer, I think something should be done

We have school traffic from Pierce Downer, Herrick, and DGN. Then there are two landscape companies on Warren Ave just east and west of Seeley Ave. Their trucks constantly go up and down Seeley.

Is it possible to put some temporary speed bumps on Seeley Ave from Warren to Ogden?

Thank you

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Comment on the Shamelessness of Trump and the Absurdity of Present Day America

Trump's superpower is said to be his shamelessness.

It was on display at the recent Trump Party midterm convention in Dallas in the speech Trump gave on 09 Sep.

Among other things Trump said he would give \$5K to every adult citizen in America if the Trump Party — also often referred to as the Republican Party — wins the midterm elections.

To many people Trump's offer sounds strikingly like a bribe, a bribe motivated in no small part to keep him from being impeached and convicted, and then put in jail for his other crimes, should his low approval ratings translate into Dems taking control of both the House and Senate in 2027.

Of course Trump's offer goes against everything the Trump Party believes in, most notably that the only ones who should get free money from govt are the rich, because they deserve it and will invest it.

But let's look at the financial implications were his offer actually carried out.

Let's say the country has 250 million adult citizens. 10% = 25 Million.

Close enough for our purposes since media reports indicate his offer pays out about one plus trillion dollars in total.

Which would put the total fed gov deficit up to \$41T.

So let's analyze the implications of this debt by social class, something American media doesn't do because in America we're supposed to believe we're all part of one big happy middle class.

60% of Americans, 150 million adults, are living month to month with little to no savings. They're people like the low information, young unemployed misogynistic males who voted for Trump in 2024 and left the rest of the ballot empty. Because they wanted to stick it to "the man", that is, stick it to the educated woke politicians and gov officials — especially the female and black ones — whom they believe are the people mainly responsible for their lives being so disappointing, if not miserable.

The bottom 60% are the ones who would be tempted by Trump's offer because they really could use the 5k.

Since Trump's not on the ballot, they do have to do the additional task of finding out who Trump wants them to vote for to collect the 5K. And where and how to vote. Will his promise of 5K be enough to get out their vote? If they're still waiting for their DOGE efficiency savings check and their tariff refund check?

Given their circumstances, those in the bottom 60% have no money to help pay the \$41T debt.

Indeed, many are in personal debt themselves. Two obvious questions: 1) who owns their debt? 2) how and how likely are they to pay off their debt?

Lest the point be missed, things like bank fees and late fees are computed as ADDING to GDP.

The next 30% up the social class hierarchy ladder are the people who have a job that is more or less stable and pays a decent amount of money, with health benefits. So not only can they make ends meet, they can invest. They have a family and have accumulated some wealth, like owning a house (or are paying off its mortgage), and owning some stocks and other financial instruments.

30% of 250 million is 75 million adults.

The top 10%, 25 million people, have substantial wealth according to all known stats.

They own much of the nation's wealth, including owning the fed government's debt. The great majority of them are big Trump and Trump Party supporters.

Which means in short: \$41T of govt debt amounts to the middle 30% owing the top 10% \$41T.

Which means DJT's 5K offer reduces the amount each adult in the 30% will be paying the top 10% from \$546,667 to \$541,667 per adult!

For a household of two adults, the total owed is \$1,083,334.

How will that household pay the debt, assuming it has the wealth to do so?

It's not likely they have enough cash in the bank.

So they'll have to sell some of their stock holdings. Who's going to buy the offered stock? Guess.

So the top 10% will make out twice, once buying the stock the middle 30% are selling and again collecting on the govt debt they own.

Of course, if some in the top 30% don't have enough stock to sell, they'll have to sell their house. Who's going to buy it? Well, the top 10% might, but if they do, they're not going to buy it at its current market price. because as the new owner they don't want to live there since they already own two or three big houses in which they 'live'. And they won't be able to rent the house at a monthly rate that covers an inflated purchase price since the house is no longer worth what that top 30% thought it was.

That selling price problem points back to a similar issue with the middle 30% trying to sell their stock. The stock isn't worth what they thought it was either, both because there's no reason for the rich to buy it at the prior 'market' price with so many people now trying to sell and because the drop in the wealth/net worth of the middle 30% means they no longer can afford to maintain their prior standard of living and buy the stuff made by the companies whose stock they (used to) own.

Sidenote: Based on historical data of stock share price valuations, many believe the US stock market is in a bubble, and that prices at some juncture will fall dramatically. Who will buy when that happens?

Does it make much difference if my percentages were 50, 40, 10 instead of 60, 30, 10?

A little. The middle 40% (100 million adults) obligation becomes \$410,000 per person.

But the overall dynamic is the same, is it not?

This is the nitty gritty reality the media hides when it proclaims reassuringly "we don't need to worry about the debt because we owe it to ourselves."

What about growth? What about it? What is the nature of the growth the US has experienced in the past decades? Data indicates the rich — for reasons conveyed above — are presently responsible for a disproportionate share of consumption in the US.

If GDP is computed in such a way that FIRE (aka financial) sector gains in price and payout ADD to GDP, what did the economy produce that helps pay down debt?

Someone please explain to me how our current situation in the US is not the definition of oligarchy, of class war.

And please explain to me how this little exercise does not demonstrate that the fed debt cannot be paid, that the rich in the US use debt as an instrument of repression, and that

the US economy DJT touts is the greatest ever isn't in fact skating on very, very, very thin ice.

Further, also please explain how centrist, so-called moderate Dems like Nancy Pelosi and others who pledge fealty to capitalism are not simply partners with the Trump Party in their joint scamming of the American people. Much as they claim to be against Trump, centrist Dems are not exactly falling over themselves to elect Dem Party candidates to their political left.

Because no, we never want to tax the rich; we'd much rather borrow from them and pay back the loan with interest. Because nothing exclaims our polity is strong more than worsening political economic inequality.

Because no matter how much debt we have, there's no way we can stop giving financial and military support to Israel. or to Ukraine.

Both centrist Dems and Trump Party want to keep supporting Israel. But Trump doesn't want to support Ukraine anymore. Which, according to Dems, makes him a Putin asset, a Manchurian candidate out to sabotage America.

How Dems imagine continuing support for Ukraine will lead to defeat of Russia is never explained. But defeating Russia is required ... in order to force Russia to pay for the debt we incurred in fighting them. Which is exactly the same logic that explains why we continue to fight Iran. They owe us for the costs we incurred in attacking them and for the destruction they caused in defending themselves!

Do we still really believe we are the world's exceptional nation, its exceptional people? the model to the rest of the world in our form of republican government and our version of capitalist economy?

As CC said years ago when I asked VC if capitalism is compatible with ecological sustainability (ECOS), "capitalism can always do better." Is it doing better?

[By the way, CC's and VC's desire to avoid making trite or uninformed responses is one of the reasons VC adopted its 'no response' stance toward public comment.]

Critics quickly observed Trump's 5k offer was a stunt. My point here is that even without the offer, the underlying reality and implications of the nation's debt don't change.

Trump's offer reveals even more than do his various foreign adventures and threats that electoral panic is setting in. He and his campaign recognize his usual gaggle of boogie man memes isn't getting Trump Party candidates enough electoral traction. So he/they decided to resort to another tried and true method of winning elections in the US: you bribe people.

Of course, should that too fail, get ready for martial law.

Because how else can the Trump Party stay in power and make America great again unless they stop the evil socialists and communists from getting hold of political power?

What's make a them evil? Being a socialist or communist, of course.

Not believing in capitalism. Not believing that the purpose of life is to get rich.

Not believing in Israel's right to kill Palestinians at will.

Not believing in America's right, in the Prez's right — whether of Dem Party or Trump Party affiliation — to kill whomever it/he chooses at will.

Not believing that when you're God's instrument on earth, like good Americans are, whatever you do is by definition good.

Socialists and communists are evil, in other words, because they're not US.

So with socialist candidates gaining some legitimacy and experiencing some electoral success again and socialist ideas gaining traction in American political discourse, expect the Trump Party to invoke the label communist more and more. Don't ask the average American to explain why we should be afraid of socialists and communists; just know we should be afraid.

Don't be surprised to hear Trump and the Trump Party exclaim: It's because of the socialists and communists the US fed gov is \$40+T in debt.

I should note however American capitalists and their political minions are not completely against socialism: as we saw for example in the Great Recession they do believe in the privatization of gain and the socialization of loss.

In short, all you DG residents who are in that middle 30%: vote for Trump Party candidates in hopes you will be able to reduce the hundreds of thousands you owe the top 10% by that \$5k Trump is promising. You know he keeps his promises, right?

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Comment on Children's Hospital coming to DG

VC's enthusiastic comments regarding the Lurie Children's Hospital project said it all. DG had the good fortune to have property available that filled L management's desire to expand their services to Chi's suburbs. As the presentation emphasized, being at the intersection of 355 and 88 makes the location ideal for a second facility. The location helps families avoid the need to travel to L's primary hospital facility in Chi and makes finding a parking spot easier.

Given Lurie's excellent reputation, VC members could taste the reflected glory.

Allow me to make a few cautionary observations however, not so much about the facility per se but about its mission and operations.

One, According to material I came across, L's hospital move to Streeterville was motivated in part by management's desire to be physically closer to its affiliate, Northwestern U's School of Medicine. I did not hear any presenter comment on if and how that relationship will be affected with a facility in DG.

Two, While Comm D's comment that DG values its children was meant to be self-congratulatory, the broader reality is not so flattering.

Like most well to do communities, in IL and elsewhere, DG doesn't value children beyond its borders enough to want K12 education funded equitably.

DG residents view inequitable school funding to be a feature not a bug, one that makes their residential property more desirable because of its location in a property-rich town able to afford better schools. I hope the hospital does not reinforce that inequity. I welcome hearing what DG and L will do to prevent that from happening.

Three, According to statements on the children's hospitals association website, one of the purposes of any children's hospital is to make pediatric care available to meet the special needs of children. Care that an 'ordinary' hospital may not be able to provide. As with education, so too with services in general, including medical care: communities that are property poor often lack quality options.

Presuming the new hospital facility gets built, how will a facility in the suburbs allow management to broaden and deepen its system-wide capacity to serve children of all social classes?

I hope one of management's displays of appreciation for the partnership will be to report periodically to VC of L's successful provision of services to all apt demographic classifications in Chi and the surrounding area: race, gender, class, ethnicity, etc.

Speaking of which, Four, given that L is a non-profit hospital, I presume it will not pay property tax. Or is the land owned by someone else and taxed accordingly?

How does one gauge L's economic impact on DG? My working hypothesis is that it will stem primarily from the prestige the hospital brings, and the follow-on economic development that its prestige and visibility help generate.

Cooper's Hawk restaurant is likely drooling over the prospect of increased traffic of a clientele willing and able to pay its elevated prices. Building owners in the vicinity are also likely starting to plan for increased rents.

Five, I would take issue with Comm's S-F's comment that health care biz is stable employment and offers a path to a good middle class career. Yes and no.

Up until the Trump 2.0 admin, health care was indeed one of the acceptable ways to re-distribute money in the US, both physically and economically. Military spending of course is the other, especially with respect to weapons makers.

In many rural areas, medical care facilities are one of the main underpinnings of the local economy, along with tourism and retirees' income. None of these however ADDs to output of the real economy, they simply redistribute money.

Health care's place in the economy is most often restorative. That is, it adds to the economy in a way similar to the way some services and products are needed to offset the effects of crime, cigarette smoking, or nutrition-less food, to cite some obvious examples.

In the US health care is charged with repairing the harmful direct effects of the economy on its workers and the harmful indirect effects of the economy on the environment and its destructive effects on the society's way of living. In other words, to the extent stability in health care as a sector of the economy constitutes a reaction to harmful effects of the larger economy, that stability is not something worthy of unmitigated praise.

Thus, Given the community orientation a children's hospital is supposed to have, I hope in addition to the direct patient services the DG hospital provides, L's personnel also work with public health depts and other such entities to address the structural factors that contribute to the need for L's services. I also hope that VC and its partners will increase the time and effort they expend to further that cause as well.

If Trump 2.0 is guided by the principle the fed gov redistributes money mainly or solely to those districts where the money will help win an election, what effect will that have on L's financial wellbeing? What steps can L and others take to offset such conduct?

Six, I presume we are supposed to be grateful that rich people like the Luries donated a portion of their wealth to a cause like a children's hospital.

However, since real estate and investment are part of the FIRE sector (finance, investment, real estate), I would point out that financialization and the accompanying de-industrialization of the US economy since the 1980s has contributed mightily to the polarization and inequality with which American society now struggles.

That a portion of the 1% "gives back" a portion of what they have taken without earning it — that is, without playing a direct role in producing some economic good in the real economy — should not be taken *prima facie* as justification for the class's continued pillaging.

This is especially the case when the wealth results from financial speculation or from pillaging the resources, products, and people outside the US that is central to US imperialism.

Do Americans believe US imperialism's military and non-military "collateral damage" especially of children is offset by some of the 1% giving to hospitals? Thus far, the answer appears to be yes, because thus far they have done little to stop the pillaging. Seven, while I appreciate comms G and D voiced interest in the environmentally friendly features of the intended facility, I hope that the hospital's understanding of the subject is not as deficient as VCs.

Care of all kinds is resource intensive. At the beginning and end of life, this is not unexpected for the species.

Pediatric care of the type L offers falls in the category of "miracle of modern medicine", the capacity of humans to use technology to overcome physiological and biological deficiencies in the extremis with the long term objective/hope that the individual will be able to live a normal productive life.

In other words, the care will be an investment that pays off.

In the US, the data typically shows the US spends more than any other nation on medical care and has among the worst outcomes. And yet seldom is that statement interpreted to mean the dog is futilely chasing its tail because the social system is structured such that the medical system can never catch up with the rate at which individual health problems are being produced.

The question of investment payoff is trickier from a societal standpoint for the individual who requires extensive care all the time. How does one gauge the aptness of sustaining them? Stephen Hawking is poster child of someone 'worthy' of care.

Beyond the difficult ethical question of care's quality and quantity is a substantive material issue that typically gets ignored. Namely ...

Most people living in the rich nations of the world take for granted that care will be available when they need it, in either the extreme or chronic case. In making this assumption, they ignore the fact that the care would not be possible without our energy-slaves, the technology and fuel feeding that technology.

As I have observed repeatedly to VC, the American way of living is not ecologically sustainable (ECOS). A fact of which few Americans are aware, including people who think they are, such as members of VC.

Without the energy-slaves, the miracles of modern medicine would be essentially impossible. Also impossible would be the ready availability of all those humans involved in providing care services.

Hospital care in the US has what I would call an industrial approach to health repair and recovery; it's a system that is very resource intensive.

Medical care by definition engages a heavy investment of resources when a person's otherwise normal physio and biological operations for good health break down or fail. Here's the key point: Unless one assumes the quantity of energy-slaves will increase endlessly, we would do well to begin to address the class war and ECOS issues to which I alluded above. And do so, both to improve the health and fitness of the population and to assess the extent to which the medical miracles will be available in future and plan how to distribute their availability.

Class differences matter when it comes to health care; the question of providing care is similar to the socio political economic question in general: who is worthy extensive restorative care? who is worthy of expensive decorative care?

Americans are encouraged to attribute debilitating effects in their personal health to personal shortcomings rather than to the structural impacts of the search for profit under a capitalist economy. What if any research is done at L to help differentiate between the two?

Does anyone, children's hospitals or hospitals in general, track the post-care lives of their patients? How is wellness of the population tracked these days to learn what is and is not working?

What if any research is being done to investigate in cross cultural fashion (or similar kinds of comparative analysis) both the incidence of pediatric 'conditions' and the success rates of their 'repairs'?

Eight, The affordable housing study VC recently accepted showed that much of DG's workforce travels far to get to DG to work. I would welcome L tracking such information

as it pertains to its staff, support services, and clients. For both this facility and its downtown facility.

Point being: if a L facility in DG doesn't reduce travel impact and fuel consumption but simply shifts WHO is doing it, at least part of L's rationale for building in DG is undercut.

Questions related to the facility: 1. What is active transport component of plan intended to achieve?. The spread of suburban living makes public transport financially challenging and active transport more a recreation than a mode of transit.

2. What is the risk of parking being an issue at the hospital? Is overflow parking readily available nearby?

3. About the Helipad: What's the significance of flights being outgoing only. Not sure what that means since an outgoing flight is presumably preceded by an incoming flight required to make the outgoing flight possible. Do different rules apply whether the helicopter is or is not carrying a patient?

It's also not obvious why the helipad should be precluded from accepting an inbound flight with a patient who requires emergency care due to an accident in the vicinity. Or are helicopters not used in that fashion in the greater Chi area at all? to an L facility?

4. It was striking to hear VC's fawning approval of the proposed facility's attention to context, aesthetics, and sustainability. The unavoidable inference for me was that the facility thereby serves as counter-example to the otherwise dull man-made physical structures normally populating commercial areas in suburbs like DG AND the more debilitating impact our society's way of living has on both the immediate landscape and the many unseen landscapes involved in provisioning a local population.

Again, I suppose one should applaud the facility's aesthetics and its integration with nature as an aid to healing. But it also begs an obvious question: what more needs to be done by the rest of us to make the meditative and energizing effects of good design and of immersion in nature available to more people more often as foundations for their maintaining good mental and physical health without the need for the more intensive measures offered by hospitals?

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Comment on CC's 9/11 proclamation

As has been true in the past, CC B again made no proclamation about Labor Day at VC's first Sep meeting.

That's not surprising since the Trump Party doesn't support labor, and Trump himself has a reputation for stiffing labor who worked for him. So also not surprising was Trump deciding the Trump Party should hold a special, first of its kind midterm convention in the state of TX, which also is not exactly labor friendly, just days after Labor Day.

What we did get was a CC proclamation about "9/11" — a 2001 event that needs no further description because it constitutes for contemporary America an updated version

of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec 07, 1941). The 'day that will live in infamy' overcame reluctance among the US populace to enter WWII and served as the foundation that not only rallied the country around the war effort that followed but served as the touchstone for US involvement around the world in the decades that followed. I guess it's incumbent upon CC in his position as CC and as a Trump Party member that he say what he did in his 9/11 proclamation.

As he had done in his proclamation in support of Israel in its 9/11 equivalent -- "Oct 07", CC began by asserting 9/11 was an unprovoked attack.

I was listening to a podcast discussion of 9/11

<https://consortiumnews.com/2026/09/12/watch-twtw-9-11-ad-infinitum/>

in which the participants (host Luria, ex CIA analyst McGovern, and Marxist economist Wolff) pointed out that in a Republican Party Prez debate in 2008, candidate Ron Paul had the audacity to observe that 9/11 was a response in kind to what the US had been doing around the world. Rudy Giuliani another prez candidate at the time angrily demanded Paul apologize. The assembled Repubs in the audience applauded in support of Giuliani's outrage. The podcast participants wondered if Americans are still drinking the kool aid, are still accepting the official 9/11 narrative. Wolff said the New Yorkers he comes in contact with mourn the tragedy but doubt the official narrative. Wolff also noted that Sep 11, 1973 was an important date for the US and Chile. That was the date the Chilean military, with the help of the CIA guided by Nixon and Kissinger and with the support of American corps operating in Chile overthrew the democratically elected prez of Chile, Salvador Allende. His transgression? Having the audacity to want to nationalize Chile's copper mines, so that their production could be used to benefit the Chilean people.

Not surprisingly, their conversation also noted the stories published earlier in the week by the Israeli news paper Haaretz. One story indicated Netanyahu was warned an attack was coming but that he choose not to share the warning and try to thwart the attack.

<https://consortiumnews.com/2026/09/11/caitlin-johnstone-3-major-gaza-revelations-in-israeli-press/>

Thus, we seem to have another instance in which a politician makes a decision based on his larger and/or personal political calculations, and supportive propaganda organs paint a narrative that manufactures the public consent needed for that objective/plan to be carried out. A real life version of British polit drama House of Cards.

War monger Netanyahu's decision was intended to keep him in power, provide a rationale for the genocide of Palestinians Israel has carried since, and open the door further to getting/goading the US to attack Iran, as also has now happened.

A similar amount of suspicion surrounds the events of the 9/11 'attack'. Skeptics, including those with government experience such as McGovern, former CIA analyst Johnson, and former FBI agent Rowley, doubt the official narrative.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJZafI7w-9w>

Suspensions persist that entities within the gov knew an attack was coming and did nothing to stop it. Given the attack's convenient timing and the US response to the attack, it feels like key elements of the US ruling class wanted/needed something of the sort to happen.

(Sidenote: The "ruling class" is known these days by the sociologically less informative name of "the 1%" or "elites." "The Epstein class" class label refers to the presumption the wealth of the ruling class allows them to engage in all sorts of sexual practices without fear of prosecution. Sex scandals of course being a favorite mechanism by which to control pols. "The deep state" refers to the linkage between the ruling class and operatives within government. The phrase reflects the notion that the US prez must always be cognizant of the preferences of the ruling class AND that parts of Executive Branch may actually take orders from the ruling class, not the Prez.)

That is, the US needed an updated version of Pearl Harbor. Something bigger than a Gulf of Tomkin incident, something that would provide a rationale for the US to pursue military action based on widespread public support.

And thus began what is known as the global war on terror (GWOT) — what critics argue was a global war OF terror — by the US.

9/11 justified boosting military spending, stifling domestic dissent and curtailing free speech, militarizing domestic police forces both psychologically and tactically, and god knows what around the world.

The most immediate response in GWOT was the US attack on Iraq. Operation Iraqi Liberation (oops. too obvious? "How did our oil get under their sand?"), Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Of course, it hasn't helped the official narrative that the weapons of mass destruction charge against Iraq proved empty. UN weapons inspector, ex US Marine Scott Ritter, told then-Sen Joe Biden's Senate committee that that was the case, but Biden basically replied such facts don't matter when the US ruling class has bigger fish to fry.

Not unlike the fact the hijackers were Saudi, not Iraqi or Iranian hasn't matter much either.

Bin Laden claimed he had nothing to do with 9/11. The Taliban were prepared to turn him over if the US provided evidence showing his involvement. Instead the US killed bin Laden, conveniently avoiding thereby a trial that might have tarnished the narrative and exposed intel ops' relations with bin Laden had started back when bin Laden and alQaeda were the good guys in Afghan fighting the Soviets.

Bin Laden is another instance of the world's rich nations using people/nations when it suits their purposes and abandoning them when they don't. Saddam Hussein is textbook example; another case of someone conveniently killed, not tried in a court of law.

In West Asia, as far as the rich nations of Europe and the US are concerned, alliances and allegiances come and go according to their utility in the rich nation's larger geopolitical objectives. That includes alQaeda and ISIS.

Sidenote: Which begs the question: Why was prez Maduro of Venez kidnapped and not killed? Was not killing him part of the deal the CIA made with Venez's current leadership in order to bring about a smooth transition to the current US domination? Perhaps some day we will learn more.

Americans are told by Dems and Trumpers alike that Russia's special military operation was an unprovoked attack on Ukraine. That claim, like the official narrative about 9/11, ignores the history that preceded it.

By contrast, although the US attack on Iran was unprovoked, US media describes it by the euphemism "war of choice".

Trump has lofted various trial balloons to see if any fly as the reason Americans will accept for why the attack on Iran was in fact provoked. The current charge, similar to the WMD charge against Saddam in Iraq: to prevent Iran from having a nuke weapon. This time the US didn't even bother with the formality/charade of going before the UN to make its case. Why bother?

Since pattern holds, the US real motive for attacking Iran is to install a regime more friendly to the US. Like the old Shah the US installed back in the '50s when the democratically elected prez had the temerity to want to nationalize Iran's oil and sell it for the benefit of the Iranian people rather than the owners of a British petroleum company.

Naturally, such independence cannot be tolerated by the US, both because it threatens to undermine the American way of living by taking away the resource/product we acquire at reduced cost and because of the 'bad example' it sets for other nations and peoples wanting to control their own destinies.

As the podcast participants intimated, Trump has pretty much shattered the ability of US government leaders to tell noble lies and be believed.

CC's proclamation and other such commemorations conveniently gloss over all of this reality and strive to 'influence'/bludgeon people into falling in line with the official narrative. People who have examined that narrative closely find riven with holes. Such as Why were agencies of government not in better communication such that the attack was not thwarted?

Why did the Twin Towers come down? Why did Building 7 come down?

What notable people and data were lost in the buildings' destruction?

Why were neither of the other two planes shot down by US forces?

Where are the images of the plane that struck the Pentagon striking the Pentagon?

Why was the Patriot Act formulated prior to 9/11?

Why has the govt misled the country about adverse health effects of the toppled buildings? Why has it taken so much effort to get govt to pay claims for people it lifts up as heroes?

According to reports, more people have now died due to adverse health effects resulting from their actions on 9/11 than died that fateful day.

Such govt niggardliness will remind Vietnam vets of similar resistance they encountered in making claims about their exposure to agent orange. It's a pattern that extends to similar such chemical exposures for military personnel thanks to military burn pits.

Nevertheless, such issues and doubts are to be cast aside, forgotten in favor of "never forgetting" the official narrative and seeing our nation and people as innocent victims: (Proclamation whereas) "Americans have continued to confront terror by choosing to overcome evil with good".

Media has labelled 9/11 the day that "Forever Changed America"

Has our nation (Proclamation Whereas) "emerged stronger, renewed by a spirit of patriotism, and a deep love of country"?

That was certainly the objective the ruling class was shooting for? Did it happen?

Has the nation changed for the better? Has 9/11 produced unity and the other positive behaviors CC's proclamation enumerated?

Has it led to increased support for the military? It's certainly helped justify ever more spending on the military, including weapons production (military Keynesianism?).

Recruitment doesn't reflect increased support. The military has had to lower its standards in order to try to meet its recruitment quotas.

Nor do we see many signs renewed patriotism and deep love of country have encouraged the children of the upper classes to enlist. They're more than happy to let the lower classes handle that task. As Cadet Bone Spurs exemplified years ago.

Obviously one of the bigger changes to American life was the tightened travel procedures at airports.

And of course, 9/11 made many Americans more afraid/suspicious of Muslims and people of color who look a certain way. Especially if one were a fellow passenger on a plane.

Thankfully, we've had no large scale attacks like 9/11 inside the US since 9/11.

Some claim the absence of such attacks means that i) changes made to the government's intelligence services interagency communication procedures prevented a repeat and ii) the GWOT 'worked'. "We need to strike them where they live before they can attack our 'homeland'."

On the other hand, counter-narrative argues there have been no further such attacks because none were needed. 9/11 achieved what it was supposed to, not because it met terrorists objectives but because it met US ruling class objectives.

How likely was another 9/11- like attack anyway?

Official narrative is that bin Laden imagined the attack would set off widespread domestic unrest that would lead to overthrow of the gov. Did he really think that? Surely any reasonably sophisticated analyst would have recognized no such social force existed in the US, then or now. 9/11 obviously didn't drive the US out of KSA or West Asia. Quite the opposite.

Do we have any reports of other terrorist groups planning to attack the US 'homeland'? From where? Iran? Iraq? Afghanistan? Syria? Russia? North Korea? China? Venezuela? Argentina? Bolivia? Nicaragua? Cuba? Somalia? Libya? Canada? Mexico? Greenland? Where do they hold their organizing meetings?

Attacks on US 'interests' tend to happen outside the country.

Terrorism inside the country these days tends to be home-grown.

Evidence indicates some 'terrorist threats' thwarted by govt were in fact aided and abetted by govt, leaving skeptics and cynics to infer such cases are intended to keep Americans fearful and supportive of the GWOT.

TSA screening procedures are a daily reminder for the flying public.

Who needs foreign terrorists when we have each other?

Death threats to gov officials and other 'undesirables' have become almost routinized, the climate for such conduct intensified these days by hysteria nurtured on social media. Including by govt officials themselves.

Given the Trump Party's love of guns, the US has shown itself unable to prevent attacks on schools, attacks carried out by Americans against American children. If the country is more united and patriotic, what explains continuation of that tragic theme?

A certain segment of Americans is more heavily armed than ever. Some now work for ICE and harass and arrest people (of any age or sex so long as they're non-white) it decides don't belong in the country. The logic for deporting them? Because who knows who has the potential to become a self-radicalizing terrorist. Better to be safe than sorry, like the way Israelis views Palestinians. Critics wonder if ICE isn't at least partially designed to prepare Americans for martial law.

Global War on Terror was amorphous enough notion that it basically gave free rein, most notably in the US to suppress dissent and curtail free speech inside the country and wreak havoc outside. Trump has taken that objective to new heights with his bull in a china shop approach to domestic and foreign policy.

Prior to 9/11, Americans were already handicapped by their lack of knowledge of other cultures, geographies, and histories. 9/11 did little to encourage recognition of the deficiency and the need to overcome it. Quite the opposite.

CC's proclamation implicitly affirms a continued preference for American innocence and ignorance: "Why do they attack us?"

America's complicity in Israel's genocide of Palestinians provides a handy answer to that question. ("Choosing to overcome evil with good"? Who is which?)

Perhaps the most absurd manifestation of ‘no change’ in American life — and in dramatic contrast to the mobilization for WWII after Pearl Harbor — 9/11 gave rise to the notion Americans going shopping was an act of political courage, of doing one’s duty to support the war effort, of not letting the evil-doers win.

Most likely the biggest change 9/11 produced on Americans was attitudinal: our presumption the US could do pretty much what it wanted in the rest of the world and the consequences would never rebound back to our shores. We were protected by two oceans and friendly neighbors to our north and south whom we dominated.

9/11 and especially the risk of cyberattack — given our dependence on computers for everything — makes us feel much less insulated than we did before. Much, much less safe if concerns about AI raised by whistleblowers are accurate. Again, who needs foreign enemies when we have each other?

I have argued previously that the US has been engaged in WWII since the end of WWII. The GWOT is a phase of that war. It is a war against the rest of world undertaken to thwart the so-called Global South, the majority of the world’s population that does not live in the world’s rich nations, in their pursuit of their own self-guided and self-determined political economic development, freed from the rich nations’ exploitation of their resources, products, and people.

CC’s proclamation should have called for greater study of the history of US conduct in the world, of our exploitation and expropriation of Global South resources, products, and people. To investigate if they hate us for “our freedoms” or for our arrogance and willful ignorance.

Critics of the official narrative argue US response to 9/11 has exposed the US for the ruthless empire it has always been but can no longer hide because of how the rest of the world has changed and is figuring out how to resist us. Instead of our being a nation that believes in the rule of law and wants good international relations and furthers the prospect of shared prosperity, the Global South sees us as an angry, flailing, friendless, over-the-hill, profligate nation whose modus operandi is promote chaos anywhere and everywhere. But a nation they must nevertheless treat gingerly because we’ve got all those nuke weapons and a deranged unpredictable leader in the White House.

Contemp history suggests that what works for them in this circumstance is a rope-a-dope approach: you win by successfully withstanding a US attack on YOU! We exhaust ourselves and give up. Are Americans about to discover that the US military is over-stretched and financially and materially unsustainable? Exactly what history teaches is one of the signs of an empire in decline!

At the risk of beating a dead horse, I will reiterate that the US problem here is the fact our way of living, driven these days by the finance and monopoly capitalist pursuit of rentier profits, is not sustainable either socio-politically economically or ecologically.

CC of course must avoid mentioning any of this reality and complexity in his proclamation and simply encourage his usual “day of service.”

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Americans may not know the data and patterns such as I have described above. But as the podcast I cited at the outset intimated, Americans are finding it increasingly difficult to believe we are innocent victims.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David ungari

Comment: I doubt there is anyway you can do this, but...

The west bound exit of I88 at Highland has a light. When the light goes green, it is only for the exit ramp traffic. Across Highland is the frontage road which has a light that goes green at a different time.

Is there anyway to get the exit ramp light to show a green left turn arrow and a green light. Drivers who do not know the intersection wait for the frontage road traffic, which never comes, before turning left.

Thank you.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Ungari

Comment: This morning, Tuesday, I was walking my dog south on Montgomery on the west side sidewalk. At 7:33am, we were at the intersection of the Montgomery sidewalk and the north side Warren sidewalk. If we had turned left to cross Montgomery, we would have been run over by a fancy black car. The car was traveling east on Warren and without slowing down made a left turn onto north Montgomery cutting the corner. If there wasn't construction at the Warren and Seeley intersection, I am confident this car would have turned onto Seeley and continued at an above the legal speed limit speed.

Another reason temporary, spring thru fall, speed bumps would be appreciated on Seeley.

Thank you.