

Another view of the lessons of history –

Observations on science in the 21st century, part XII

By Chuck Cook

Taking a break from this series for a few weeks to concentrate on local government issues gave me the opportunity to read a few recent sources of information that I had not previously reviewed. I share them with you here in the hope that you will find them instructive and enlightening. All are exceptionally well documented and relevant to today's problems of scientific narratives, bias and credibility.

Let's begin with *The Truth About COVID-19 – Exposing The Great Reset, Lockdowns, Vaccine Passports, and the New Normal*. This is a 2021 book by Dr. Joseph Mercola and Ronnie Cummins. Dr. Mercola is a physician, best-selling author and multiple award winner in the field of natural health. Cummins is the founder and director of the Organic Consumers Association, a non-profit network of more than two million consumers. The book contains well researched reviews of the types of issues discussed in this series regarding the coronavirus pandemic, including confirmation of the highly prejudicial research funding conflicts of interest that have promoted outrageously costly vaccines and treatments, and suppressed far less expensive, more effective and much safer treatment protocols using existing and readily available drugs. Dr. Mercola uses published data to identify those most susceptible to the virus, and nutritional methods and lifestyle changes that substantially reduce an individual's likelihood of contracting it. This is a relatively short and easy to read reference that is particularly engrossing for those whose knowledge base regarding the disease and its etiology are limited.

George Melloan's 2021 book, *Bogus Science – How Scare Politics Robs Voters, Corrupts Research, and Poisons Minds*, is largely a critical assessment of the media's reporting on the "science" of climate change. Like Mercola's and Cummins' analysis of the pandemic, Melloan documents the mainstream media's lack of interest or understanding of the climate debate, thoroughly debunks the narrative that climate change is settled science accepted by 90+ percent of climatologists, and provides abundant evidence of both the falsification of supporting scientific data on carbon emissions and the unwarranted suppression of alternative theories to explain variations in recorded global temperatures. Melloan also discusses the universal complaint that scientific research in general and, particularly on climate change, has been unduly and unfairly influenced by those with a political, professional and/or financial stake in its validation.

The third book, also published in late 2021, is nothing short of a tour de force by best-selling author Robert

F. Kennedy Jr., son of the late Attorney General and U.S. Senator, nephew of President John F. Kennedy, life-long Democrat, and a leading legal advocate on environmental affairs. It is entitled, *The Real Anthony Fauci – Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health*. Available space here does not allow me to do justice in even summarizing this monumental work of the past 50 years of history on public health, which principally covers the career of Dr. Anthony Fauci at the National Institutes of Health and long-time Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Very briefly, with more than a thousand citations verifying his analysis and conclusions, Kennedy documents the enormous power that Fauci and his major partner, Bill Gates, wield in influencing the allocation of world health resources. The tentacles of power that Fauci and Gates control through research grants, government contracts, "charitable contributions," patents, corporate ownerships and investments, advertising dollars, and life and death decisions that impact thousands of influential professionals and political appointees in the health sciences is truly remarkable, if not unbelievable. It enables them to – lie with impunity about what they are doing; falsify, exaggerate, hide, ignore and deny research results to their own personal and professional advantage; suppress and re-write investigative reports that are unfavorable to their objectives or the programs they support; rig drug testing protocols to assure the results they seek, including promotion of vaccines and the suppression of inexpensive treatments of diseases for which the patents have expired; accrue billions of dollars in profits from and to the agencies, corporations, foundations and organizations they control; and – among many other things – destroy the professional reputations and careers of those who dare to disclose their felonies and misdemeanors.

What is even more astounding is that this maleficent influence is not a phenomenon of the recent pandemic, but has been refined through years of hyperbolic modeling, public fear-mongering and willful deceptive practices involving virtually every predicted disease outbreak for the past 50 years. Practice – in this case – has made perfect and profitable, but at a cost – according to Kennedy – of nearly a million lives lost on a world-wide basis to inadequate research and testing, the sale and distribution of vaccines known to be highly toxic, and the suppression of effective treatments to maximize financial gains from the production of patented vaccines and drugs.

Don't take my word for all of this. Read these remarkable and well researched works. As the saying goes, "Read 'em and weep!"

The State Capitol Report

Rep. Anne Parks, 434D Blatt Building
SC House District #12

February 22 - 24, 2022

The House of Representatives amended, approved, and sent the Senate H. 4880, a bill providing for income tax relief. The legislation provides for a lowest individual income tax bracket that is taxed at zero percent and collapses several tax brackets, currently subject to rates of three percent, four percent, five percent, and six percent, into a single tax bracket so that incomes falling in this middle range are all taxed at three percent. The legislation gradually reduces the rate for the highest tax bracket from seven percent to six percent under a schedule that phases in the tax relief in years when the state experiences sufficient revenue growth. Under this schedule, the seven percent top marginal rate is lowered to six and one half of one percent in Tax Year 2022. Afterwards, it is decreased by one tenth of one percent in a year when the state's general fund revenues are projected to increase by at least five percent until the top marginal rate is lowered to six percent. This legislation, beginning with tax year 2022, also exempts all military retirement income from South Carolina individual income tax, regardless of the taxpayer's age.

The House approved and sent the Senate Joint Resolution H. 3347, a proposed state constitutional amendment for increasing state financial reserve funds that are used to cope with revenue shortfalls. The proposed amendment provides for the state's General Reserve Fund, currently set at five percent of General Fund revenue of the latest completed fiscal year, to be increased each year by half of one percent until it equals seven percent of General Fund revenue of the latest completed fiscal year. The proposed amendment increases the state's Capital Reserve Fund from two percent of General Fund revenue of the latest completed fiscal year to three percent of such revenues. Should the

General Assembly pass the joint resolution, these proposals for amending the South Carolina Constitution would be placed before the state's voters as ballot questions at the next general election.

The House gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 4939, a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a "Certified S.C. Raised Beef" designation, along with developing label and application process. The bill further outlines that a beef producer located in this state that meets all criteria is entitled to this designation.

The House gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 4778, a bill that adds that an entity that has contracted for the right to store water in a reservoir owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers has exclusive rights to any return flows generated to that reservoir under the "Water Resources Planning and Coordination Act." The bill further outlines that the "return flow" means water that is discharged directly or indirectly to a reservoir from a water recovery facility.

The House gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 3598, a bill that creates the "Veterans Service Organization Burial Honor Guard Support Fund." The purpose of this fund is to help offset the costs paid by South Carolina chapters of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations that provide well-equipped and properly trained honor guard burial details at the funerals of qualifying South Carolina veterans. This bill requires the Secretary of the SC Department of Veterans Affairs to authorize a disbursement from the fund not to exceed \$100 per funeral. Revenues to the fund may include gifts, grants, federal funds, or donations, as well as funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

(Continued next week)

- David S. Flom

Messenger Mail

I agree to disagree

I am writing about the letter of 2/24, which was in response to my letter of 2/17. It is true that there is no point in going around and around about our 45th President; still, there are some points about the 2/24 letter which should be answered:

1- I do not subscribe to the so-called progressive media, nor do I accept any characterization of my thoughts as strictly partisan. I endeavor to gather information from many different sources, electronic and print, FOX and CNN, the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* among them, then try to decide what is the truth. There have even been times when I thought the 45th President did the right thing (opening Keystone pipeline efforts, review of Iran nuclear deal, review of NAFTA, Operation "Warp Speed"). At the same time, I have many negative issues with the 46th President, but I will let more persistent critics of the 46th President submit their own "non-partisan" letters;

2- My mention of the former Secretary of State did not, in any way, defend her. My point was about the 45th President's accusations in lieu of facts in 2016. I believe that the former Secretary of State is one of the very few people ever created who equals the 45th President in dishonesty, illegal and unethical actions, and an overwhelming failure of every smell test. I hope that is not considered partisan;

3- The 45th President's mishandling of documents may not have involved transmitting the information to third parties – exactly the problem. He was attempting to keep information away from legally entitled entities (National Archives, legally constituted Congressional committee, the general public as appropriate). Calling his actions acceptable, in any way, is a very partisan assertion;

4- Then there is Jan. 6, 2021. I have read legal opinions on both sides, in an attempt to take the partisan aspect out of it. The 45th President's words before the riotous insurrection were bad enough. Then, when this attack on our democracy had been going on for over three hours, as the 45th President sat and watched it on TV, he said to the House Minority Leader (who, in a rare, though fleeting, moment of independent thinking was imploring the 45th President to move to stop the violence), "Well, I guess they're more upset about the election than you are." When the 45th President finally did call for an end, the emphatic phrases were "We love you" and "You are very special." So, here was the sitting President, aiding, abetting and complimenting the insurrectionists;

5- The 45th President's attempts to intimidate state election officials into thwarting the valid voice of the people were not based on any legitimate rationale. The more than 60 unsuccessful lawsuits regarding election laws and processes removed the notion of legitimacy. Add to that the numerous farcical audits and recounts (which did not change the vote results). In Georgia, for example, the 45th President's only rationale was that he lost the election by almost 12,000 votes, and he wanted that many votes to be "found" somewhere to change the result. One telling demand, was, essentially – "Tell them you miscalculated, it has happened in the past." This was at approximately the same time that the 45th President was instructing his own Justice Department (!) to announce that the election was corrupt, and then to "leave the rest to me." Not legitimate, and directly in contradiction to the Attorney General's determination, near the end of 2020, that the so-called fraud that affected the election did not exist. And remember, these are words and actions by the then-sitting 45th President;

6- The notion of a smooth transition on 1/20/21, somehow delivered by the 45th President, is refuted by his own refusal, to this date (2/26/22), to accept the results of the Presidential election, and to move on for the good of the country. Transitions in several federal departments were accomplished, due mainly to the efforts of experienced federal employees, who the 45th President had consistently referred to as the "Deep State," as if they only existed to thwart him at every turn;

7- In recent interviews, the 45th President has mentioned that he might well pardon (if elected President again) those in legal jeopardy due to their actions on 1/6/21, indicating his agreement with their insurrectionist aims. As with so many things, there are legal opinions on both "sides," but one interpretation is that these words could result in witness tampering, i.e., suspects will not be forthcoming in testimony solely because they could reasonably expect a President pardon if #45 became #47.

At the risk of being called "Partisan," I submit that these behaviors and words by a sitting President are worthy of our outrage. I agree to disagree with partisans of different opinions.

Birthdays/Wedding Anniversaries

March 4 - Sherri Brown, LeeAnne Boddie, Chip Long, Alvin Swann, Vertee Settles, Jacob Deason, Mary Hardy, David Hill, Jack Wilson, Barbara J. Morgan, Kelly Simmons.

March 5 - Annie R. Gilchrist Turner, Jeanette Coker Jennings II, Jerome Settles, Gordon Corrigan, Yulonda Miller, Matthew Lewis, Charles Jones, Jarred Timok, Connor Doyle.

March 6 - Robert Ashmore Jr., Roderick Ravarus Jennings, Vanezar Butch Leverette, Becky L. Heard, Donna Faye Wiggleton, Tommy Heyward Sr., Grant Wilkie, Barbara O. Roberts, Jerelle McGrier, Willie Hardy Jr., Bob and Anne Harter, Lonnie McCarron, Amaya Johnson.

March 7 - Leah Hodges, Antonie Perrin Stevens, Tiran LeVar Moss, Evelyn Mims, Victoria Guiney, Pilar Calhoun.


March 8 - Brenda A. Drennon, Kevin Franklin, Brad Fender, Priscilla Wiggleton, Tyshanta Cooper, Alexander Jenson, Gregory Cody, Cole Gullotti.

March 9 - Mable Calhoun, Melanie E. Banks, Gregory Gilchrist, Vicie Robinson, Teresa Jean Smith, Angie White, Mr. and Mrs. Otis White, Ret. Col. James T. Wideman Jr., Austin Hood, Kenneth Brown, Montana Peavy, Michael Haslam, Kristi Fultz, Millileen Wilkerson, Florence Evans.

March 10 - Kelly Ardis, Annie P. Gardner, Kevin Kelly, Wilhelmena Tolbert, Lessie Bussey, Thomas Sanders, Ed Hembree, Destiny Bell.

Free books for preschool children

Would you like to receive free books for your preschool child(ren)? McCormick County First Steps and Dolly Parton extend the invitation for you and your preschool aged child to enroll in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. To be eligible the child must be preschool age (birth to age 5) and must be a resident of McCormick County. If you are interested, contact NaToya Cartledge at McCormick County First Steps (located at McCormick Elementary School Room 133) 864-443-5382.



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