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**What Should a President Trump Do?
The Budget**

By: Victor Davis Hanson
July 17, 2024

The U.S. is broke. It owes over \$35 trillion, mostly to American and Chinese bond and T-bill holders. The interest alone costs nearly \$1 trillion, larger than the annual defense budget. The aggregate debt is now 123% of the annual GDP. Each American resident owes some bondholder about \$103,000.

How can this be, when the average upper-middle-class income earner can pay 37% on federal income tax, 10-13% California income tax, perhaps 10% in FICA and Obamacare surcharges, and thousands of dollars in property and gas taxes? It is not hard to lose 60% of one's income to the government if one is honest and follows the tax code.

When Biden says, "*Pay your fair share!*" he, of course, exempts his son Hunter on tax evasion charges, and he and his brothers, who likely never paid full tax on the vast off-the-books quid-pro-quo sums they shook down from other countries. Nor does he mean the 50% of Americans who pay no income tax. Instead, Biden is targeting the upper-middle class, the 1-5% of Californians, for example, who pay over 50% of all the state's income tax revenue (and who are leaving each year at the rate of 300,000 and more).

We are, in other words, in the historical red zone.

Yet the Biden administration is borrowing \$1 trillion every 90 days, mostly either for entitlements or inefficient and counter-productive “green” projects. Why? Is it trying to win new constituents by giving away costly free stuff: immigration amnesties, student loan forgiveness, sustenance for 10 million illegal aliens?

The 2010 formation of the Simpson-Bowles “*National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform*” offered a gradual but methodical tax simplification/ spending reduction pathway to balanced budgets and eventual reduction in national debt.

Had the Obama administration just pushed the recommendations of its own commission, the then \$13 trillion national debt would have been reduced to \$9 trillion by 2020 and perhaps a mere \$7 trillion now (rather than \$35 trillion).

We could still easily implement the commission’s recommendations on spending cuts, entitlement reform, and tax simplification, and soon begin balancing budgets on our way to national debt reduction.

The problem is not in government or politics but in us, the people, who repeatedly shrug when our government borrows trillions for pet but wasteful projects.

So, we Americans are the culprits for weakening the country and destroying our financial system. If we don’t stop borrowing now, the only solutions can be found in history’s civilizational-ending remedies: hyper-inflation Weimar-Republic-style to pay back debts in worthless dollars, Soviet—or Cuban-style appropriation of private wealth, or late Roman Republican-style cancellation of debts and defaults on private and public loans.

We need to adopt an Eisenhower mindset of immediately calibrating every new expenditure in terms of how to fund it: Should we drain the strategic petroleum reserve? OK, where is the money to resupply it? Perhaps pump x-amount more oil and gas on federal lands?

Give Ukraine \$12 billion?—Fine, but what tax, surcharge, or government cut will provide the replacement money? Perhaps slash commensurate foreign aid to Hamas and the West Bank, Yemen, Jordan, or Nigeria?

Welcome in and support 10 million unaudited illegal aliens?—Where are hundreds of billions of dollars to come from to pay for their current hotel accommodations and food/health/legal/education support? Perhaps tax Mexico and Central America 15% on all remittances sent from the United States to illegal aliens' countries of origin?

Let's Play "*Wheel of Biden!*"
Round and Round and Round She Goes,
Which Joe We Get, *SOMEBODY* Knows!

By: Pem Schaeffer
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To paraphrase Forrest Gump, "*Joe Biden is like a box of choc-lates; you never know which Joe you're gonna get.*" Maybe the "*royal we*" don't know which one we're gonna get, but it's obvious someone does, complete with a "*medication*" assist team.

So, America, let's give the wheel a spin with a jovial Jill Biden standing by. Though she knows every choice on the wheel is, in reality, nothing more than a hood ornament on "*The Beast*," tuned up for the moment, "*Dr. Jill*" will gush over whichever one we end up with. It's a stark reminder of our lack of control over the situation.

- Will it be the Red Light Night at Independence Hall Joe?
- Or State of the Union Joe?
- How about "*Joker Joe*" aping the Jack Nicholson smile from Batman?
- Or haven't had a Cabinet Meeting in 9 months Joe?
- Oval office, yellow chair, legs crossed, cue cards Joe?
- Could it be that Special Prosecutor Hur is *too feeble to indict* Joe?
- Or the June Debate against The Donald Joe? ("*Oh Joe, you did great!*")
- Jackpot: *Jeff Dunham's Walter does Joe*
- Or the latest "*Big Boy Press Conference*" Joe?
- Perhaps the rockin' June Nineteenth Joey?
- And then the jackpot: the Obama walks him off the stage Joe!

Oh, Mamala! So many lucky choices on the wheel! So many ways to lose! And each comes with a half-hour live presentation by Karine Jean-Pierre. Be still, my soul! I think we're gonna need some smelling salts over here, STAT!

Time For A Reality Break, To Pay The Bills, as they say on TV:

As exciting as the *Wheel of Biden* may sound to many, there are too many serious questions to ignore. For example:

- Which "*Joe*" has been "*presiding*" over the Nation since his inauguration?
- Which one is standing for re-election?
- Which one takes the "*sky is falling*" call at any hour of any day and has the football at his side, no matter what?

- Which one will "*preside*" over the nation for the next four years if he is re-elected?
- And most importantly, who is the attending "*alchemist*" that decides which Joe appears at any moment and who acts as Commander-in-Chief in moments of peril? And if there isn't someone with complete control of the "*Joe of the moment*" selection, how can he "*protect us against all foes, foreign and domestic,*" or otherwise discharge his duties as "*Executive*" and Commander-in-Chief?

If someone, somewhere, can't provide cogent answers to these deliberate, surpassingly important questions, how can anyone vote for any Joe with clear, good conscience?

Conclusion:

SOMEBODY knows which Joe we get at any moment. Who the hell is it? And when will they come forward and identify themselves, or be ferreted out by the FBI? If this isn't a crisis of National Security, what is?

It boils down to Teleprompter Joe, Cliff Notes Joe, and "*ol' Joe.*" Only the last one is actually Joe; the first two are the remotely programmed Joe....by whom? Where is the room "*behind the curtain?*" Who runs it? Is it secure? Does Obama have access? Does Soros? Do others?

Does half the country *really* want to be governed by a Teleprompter and a pocket full of Cliff Notes, with one with a red border labeled "*In case of Emergency, look sincere and read this!*"

It's **impossible** to avoid suspicions that a myriad of medications, prescription, homeopathic, and "*otherwise,*" are key elements of our Commander-In-Chief's "presence" and have been for a long time.

The only other option, it seems, is that being within the viewing field of Teleprompters triggers some major response in his conscious (and unconscious) mind, awakening a staggering change in his countenance. Could it be the dopamine feed others get from smartphones and social media? Maybe we need to see what's on those screens.

If that's the case, it's even more frightening and concerning than a pharmaceutical program that shapes the “*Joe of the moment*” we see acting as President.

The more I think about it, the more I conclude there is no “*get out of jail free*” card in this game.

**Secret Service Director Blames Sloped Roof
Kim Cheatle bizarrely claimed that they didn't
place agents on the rooftop used by the shooter
because it was sloped.**

By: Douglas Andrews
The Patriot Post
July 17, 2024

Kim Cheatle, the former senior director of global security at Pepsi and the current director of our nation's Secret Service, is taking the near-assassination of Donald Trump on her watch very seriously. So seriously, in fact, that she sat down for a chat Monday with ABC News's Pierre Thomas.

Cheatle owes her current role largely to the relationship she developed with First Lady Jill Biden during her eight years as second lady in the Obama administration. Perhaps that experience guided her determination that the attempted assassination was “*unacceptable*” and that “*it's something that shouldn't happen again.*”

Whew. What a relief it is for Trump supporters to hear that it “*shouldn't happen again.*” And by that, we assume she means that a guy with a semiautomatic rifle

and a rangefinder shouldn't be able to set up shop on a rooftop just 130 yards from a former president and start firing away.

No wonder Cheatle refuses to resign. The bullet hole in Trump's ear is something that shouldn't happen again. *"It was obviously a situation that, as a Secret Service agent, no one ever wants to occur in their career,"* she said.

Asked by Thomas whether she bears responsibility for the jaw-slackening incompetence, Cheatle said, *"The buck stops with me. I am the director of the Secret Service, and I need to make sure that we are performing a review and giving resources to our personnel as necessary."* (Has anyone else noticed that the ol' "buck stops with me" trope is what all Demo-bureaucrats trot out when they know they're not going to be fired or forced to resign?)

Perhaps next time, she'll assign the "A" team to the former and likely future president, who is at once the most beloved and reviled man in American history, rather than sticking him with a clueless crew that came within a literal inch of getting him killed. Or perhaps not.

As for why there were apparently no agents on that layup-distance rooftop, it's because they were inside the building rather than atop it. *"That building, in particular, has a sloped roof at its highest point,"* she said, stressing the importance of the safety of her agents.

Say what? That ridiculous excuse alone should be a firing offense.

Indeed, it looked to be about as sloped as a wheelchair ramp. *"And so, you know,"* she continued, *"there's a safety factor that would be considered there that we wouldn't want to put somebody up on a sloped roof. And so, you know, the decision was made to secure the building from inside."*

Securing it from the inside, eh? How did that work out?

In his analysis on Monday, our Mark Alexander noted yet another failure of Trump's Secret Service detail: The building immediately behind the shooter's position was the highest overwatch point at this venue, and yet, shockingly, there were no counter-snipers on that rooftop above the assassin's position.

As for that treacherously sloped roof, it didn't seem to bother the would-be assassin — the guy who fired multiple rounds toward Trump and missed killing him by an inch but did manage to kill a heroic husband and father, Corey Comperatore, while gravely wounding two other men. And a sloped roof didn't seem to bother the Secret Service sniper team, which appeared to have Thomas Crooks in their sights but inexplicably waited until he began his murderous assault before engaging him.

“The shooter was actually identified as a potential person of suspicion,” Cheatle said. *“Unfortunately, with the rapid succession of how things unfolded, by the time that individual was eventually located, **they** were on the rooftop and were able to fire off at the former president.”*

Where do we find these DEI hires, anyway? Cheatle can't even put her pronouns in agreement with their antecedents. How on earth can she be expected to run an agency charged with protecting past and present presidents and their families?

In an earlier statement, Cheatle called the shooting *“a senseless act of violence,”* and she reassured an anxious nation that she's on the case: *“Since the shooting,”* she said, *“I have been in constant contact with Secret Service personnel in Pennsylvania. ... I have also been coordinating with the protective detail for former President Trump and have briefed President Biden on the details of the*

incident. The Secret Service is working with all involved Federal, state, and local agencies to understand what happened, how it happened, and how we can prevent an incident like this from ever taking place again.”

What happened? It's complicated, but The Federalist's Sean Davis breaks it down:

“They kept the rooftop open, watched the shooter, kept Trump on the stage, and didn't do a damn thing until after he had been shot. And we're supposed to believe it was an innocent oopsie?”

The more we learn about the cascading lapses of this incident, the more deeply disturbing it becomes.

If Cheatle thinks she's out of the woods, she's sorely mistaken. House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer wants to know who knew what and when. He also says he'll subpoena her to appear at the panel's July 22 hearing, which should keep her from getting cold feet and refusing to show.

In addition to her congressional appearance, Cheatle will have to answer to the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security, which has opened an investigation into this catastrophic lapse. According to Fox News, *“Joseph V. Cuffari, who was appointed as the inspector general by former President Trump in 2019, opened the investigation.”*

All these investigations are well and good, but not if they don't end in accountability. And if there's one thing we know about Joe Biden, it's that he doesn't hold his people accountable.

**The Great Cow Flatulence Alarmism Shakedown
In the name of fighting climate change, Denmark has become
the first nation to impose a carbon tax on farm livestock.**

By: Thomas Gallatin
The Patriot Post
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Denmark has become the first country to tax cow farts in the name of climate change.

Predictably, there are climate cultists in the U.S. who think it is a good idea and that the federal government should adopt and impose a similar carbon tax on America's farmers.

In its effort to lower the nation's carbon emissions by some 70% by 2030, the Danish government will impose a carbon tax on farmers for the methane emissions from their livestock. The types of livestock included under the new carbon tax are cattle, sheep, and pigs.

According to data, an average cow produces six metric tons of methane gas annually. The carbon tax would impose a 300 kroner tax, equivalent to \$43, on every metric ton of methane a farmer's livestock produced by 2030. (\$258/cow/yr) That rate would increase to 750 kroner (\$108) per ton by 2035. (\$648/cow/yr)

Denmark has a significant cattle and dairy industry. As of June 2022, Danish farmers owned 1,484,377 cows. Based on the above tax rate and given the country's cow population, that would translate into farmers shelling out over \$382 million in carbon tax for cows alone. And that total would grow to nearly \$962 million by 2035.

In the name of fighting climate change, the Danish government is shaking down farmers to the tune of hundreds of millions. Of course, this will have absolutely no measurable effect on the global climate, but it will have a direct impact on Danish farmers' bottom line and also on food prices for Danes.

Is it any wonder that farmers across Europe have been protesting?

Tellingly, what goes unsaid is exactly how charging farmers a livestock carbon tax will reduce emissions. The only way that this occurs is if farmers have far fewer cows, sheep, and pigs. That means that not only will Danes be paying higher prices for their food, but there will also be less meat and dairy for them to consume.

This is an example of why former Greenpeace cofounder Patrick Moore calls these climate cultists anti-human.

Having abundant, inexpensive food is a good thing. Famines have plagued humanity throughout the vast majority of history, and it has only really been in the 20th century that mankind has developed enough knowledge and technology to eradicate the problem of naturally caused famines effectively. Most of this progress is tied directly to fossil fuels because they provide abundant, inexpensive energy.

Thanks to fossil fuels, fewer people worldwide are abjectly poor worldwide subject to food shortages and famines.

As noted above, targeting farmers with a livestock carbon tax is not really about climate change. It's about increasing the monetary flow to the government so bureaucrats can exert ever more control over the populace. This is why the concept of a carbon tax is so popular with leftists in the U.S. They can claim it is needed to "*fight climate change*," but the truth is that it's yet another opportunity for the government to shake down yet another industry, painted with an altruistic veneer.