

# Eye on the World

## Dec. 28, 2019

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Dec. 28, 2019.

**Compiled by Dave Havir**

**Luke 21:34-36**—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man” (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Selcan Hacaoglu and Samer Khalil Al-Atrush titled “Erdogan Edges Closer to Deploying Turkish Troops in Libya” was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 25, 2019. Following is the article.

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President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sent his firmest signal yet that Turkey will deploy troops to support Libya’s internationally recognized government, saying recent commitments between the countries should be seen as a “harbinger of steps” to follow.

Erdogan flew to Tunisia on Wednesday in a surprise visit that’s likely to include meetings with government officials from neighboring Libya. While he’s repeatedly discussed the possibility of sending troops to back Libyan Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj’s government against rebel commander Khalifa Haftar, he left no room for doubt at a news conference in Tunis.

“If there is an invitation, we would of course evaluate it,” Erdogan said in a televised press conference with Tunisia’s new president, Kais Saied.

Haftar, who has mounted an offensive to capture the Libyan capital, Tripoli, is backed by 7,000 mercenaries but “has no political legitimacy,” Erdogan said.

### **Mercenaries deployed**

Haftar already controls most of Libya’s oil facilities, as well as swaths of territory in the country’s east and south. The deployment of Russian mercenaries since September has further complicated international efforts to end the fighting.

Libya has been wracked by violence ever since the NATO-backed ouster of Moammar Qaddafi in 2011, with the instability turning it into a bastion for Islamist radicals and a magnet for migrants hoping to reach Europe.

Turkey's parliament last week approved a pact to defend Sarraj's administration. The governing AK Party has begun working on a motion to allow deployment of troops in Libya should Sarraj's government ask for reinforcement, and is expected to present it to parliament in early January, according to state-run TRT television.

Sarraj's Government of National Accord said Erdogan's delegation, which includes foreign and defense ministers and the intelligence chief, may meet with GNA officials in Tunis. Turkey's parliament recently approved a pact to defend Sarraj's administration.

### **Maritime pact**

In addition to the defense pact, Turkey and the Sarraj government also recently signed a contentious maritime agreement that affirms Turkish claims to areas where a planned pipeline to bring Israeli and Cypriot natural gas to Europe may cross.

Turkey has controlled northern Cyprus since sending troops there in 1974 after a failed attempt to unite the island with Greece, and wants a share of Cyprus's gas revenue.

The pact with Libya angered Greece, and it plans next week to sign an agreement with Cyprus and Israel to build the pipeline, as it confronts Turkey over maritime rights.



An article titled "Gloomy Christmas Eve on the 20th Day of French Strike" was posted at [afp.com](http://afp.com) on Dec. 24, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Christmas Eve 2019 was an unusually gloomy one for France, as the 20th day of a transport strike left many scrambling Tuesday to reach their loved ones for the traditional family feast, while others simply gave up.

The protest against pension reform has led to thousands of trains being cancelled or delayed—and taxis, ride-sharing services and car rental agencies unable to make up the shortfall.

"We're not sure what to do," said Joel Rossignon, 66, visiting Paris from the east of France to spend Christmas with his son, who lives in a far-flung suburb of the capital with none of the usual trains running.

"We even tried to book a taxi yesterday but there were none," he said, standing with his suitcase on the street.

Negotiations between the government and unions last week failed to find common ground, and strikers vowed there would be no holiday truce unless officials scrap plans to merge the current 42 pension schemes into one.

Talks are scheduled to resume on January 7, according to Prime Minister Edouard Philippe's office.

Roughly 40 striking dancers staged an elegant protest in Paris on Tuesday, braving chilly weather to perform set pieces from "Swan Lake" in white tutus outside Opera Garnier as onlookers applauded.

Behind them, banners draped across the famous building's arches read "Paris Opera strike" and "Culture in danger".

"We wanted to offer a moment of grace," said dancer Alexandre Carniato, a spokesman for the strikers.

Since it started on December 5, the strike has hit daily commuters hard—especially around Paris and other large cities—and is now impeding tens of thousands of rail ticket holders who had planned to spend the festive season with family or friends.

### **This is horrible**

Rail operator SNCF provided only 40 percent of its usual high-speed TGV and regional TER train services Tuesday, and 20 percent of inter-city and Paris suburban trains Tuesday, with even fewer planned for Christmas Day, Wednesday.

Suburb dwellers hoping to spend Christmas in the City of Light also had bad news. The SNCF will close several railway lines Tuesday afternoon, with some reopening Wednesday late morning, and others only Thursday.

Of Paris's 16 metro lines, only the two automated ones will run on Wednesday, provider RATP said.

The government's pension overhaul, which it says would create a fairer system, would see some public employees—notably railway staff—lose early-retirement benefits.

Workers balk at the inclusion of a so-called pivot age of 64 until which people would have to work to earn a full pension—two years beyond the official retirement age.

"This is horrible. These three weeks have been hard for me," said Ristic Nevena, 29, who works as a manager in Paris, and travels daily from Montfermeil about 17 kilometres (10.5 miles) away.

She is obliged to take a different train from her usual one, with many connections, making her daily commute three or four hours longer.

### **Daily struggle**

Juno Dormevil, a 27-year-old chemist, said his usual one-hour work commute now takes three hours each way, on an assortment of buses.

"It's a daily struggle."

Unions are hoping for a repeat of 1995 when the government backed down on pension reform after three weeks of metro and rail stoppages just before Christmas.

But the action is taking a heavy toll on businesses, especially retailers, hotels and restaurants, during what should be one of the busiest periods of the year.

Industry associations have reported turnover declines of 30 to 60 percent from a year earlier, and the SNCF said Tuesday it had lost 400 million euros (\$442 million) in potential earnings so far.

Non-transport workers have also started joining the protest, claiming to have impeded production at some oil refineries, and interrupting power to thousands of homes in recent days.

The man leading the government's pension reform project, Laurent Pietraszewski, told BFM TV on Tuesday he believed the government was "willing to compromise" in the negotiations, set to last throughout January.



An article by Pat Buchanan titled "Today France, Tomorrow the USA?" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 24, 2019. Following is the article.

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As that rail and subway strike continued to paralyze travel in Paris and across France into the third week, President Emmanuel Macron made a Christmas appeal to his dissatisfied countrymen:

"Strike action is justifiable and protected by the constitution, but I think there are moments in a nation's life when it is good to observe a truce out of respect for families and family life."

Macron's appeal has gone largely unheeded.

"The public be damned!" seems to be the attitude of many of the workers who are tying up transit to protest Macron's plan to reform a pension system that consumes 14% of GDP.

Macron wants to raise to 64 the age of eligibility for full retirement benefits. Not terribly high. And to set an example, he is surrendering his lifetime pension that is to begin when he becomes an ex-president.

Yet, it is worth looking more closely at France because she appears to be at a place where the rest of Europe and America are headed.

In France, the government collects 46% of the GDP in taxes and spends 56% of GDP, the highest figures in the Western world.

And Paris appears to be bumping up against the limits of what democratic voters will tolerate in higher taxes, or reductions in benefits, from the post-war welfare states the West has created.

A year ago, when Macron sought to raise fuel taxes to cut carbon emissions, the “yellow vests” came out in protests that degenerated into rioting, looting, arson, desecration of monuments and attacks on police.

Paris capitulated and canceled the tax.

How do we compare?

The U.S. national debt is now larger than the GDP. Only in 1946, the year after World War II, was U.S. debt a larger share of GDP than today.

In 2019, the U.S. ran a deficit just shy of \$1 trillion, and the U.S. government projects trillion-dollar deficits through the decade, which begins next week. And we will be running these deficits not to stimulate an economy in recession, as President Obama did, but to pile them on top of an economy at full employment.

In short, we are beginning to run historic deficits in a time of prosperity. Whatever the economic theory behind this, it bears no resemblance to the limited government-balanced budget philosophy of the party of Ronald Reagan.

The questions the U.S. will inevitably face are the ones France faces: At what point does government consumption of the national wealth become too great a burden for the private sector to bear? At what point must cuts be made in government spending that will be seen by the people, as they are seen in France today, as intolerable?

While a Republican Congress ran surpluses in the 1990s, when defense spending fell following our Cold War victory, Dwight Eisenhower was the last Republican president to run surpluses.

Opposition to new or higher taxes appears to be the one piece of ground today on which Republicans will not yield. But if so, where are the cuts going to come from that will be virtually mandated if U.S. debt is not to grow beyond any sustainable level?

America’s long-term problem:

Deficits are projected to run regularly in the coming decade at nearly 5% of GDP while economic growth has fallen back to 2%.

With taxes off the table, where, when and how do we cut spending?

Or does each new administration kick the can down the road?

The five principal items in the federal budget are these:

- Social Security, which consumes 25% of that budget. Yet, Social Security outlays will reach the point this year where payroll taxes no longer cover them. The “trust fund” will have to be raided. Translation: The feds will have to borrow money to cover the Social Security deficit.
- Medicare, Medicaid, Obamacare, and other health programs account for another fourth of the budget. All will need more money to stay solvent.

■ Defense, which used to take 9% of GDP in JFK's time and 6% in Ronald Reagan's buildup, is now down to 3.2% of GDP.

Yet, while defense's share of GDP is among the smallest since before World War II, U.S. commitments are as great as they were during the Cold War. We are now defending 28 NATO nations, containing Russia, and maintaining strategic parity. We have commitments in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and the global war on terror. We defend South Korea and Japan from a nuclear-armed North Korea and China.

■ Yet another major item in the budget is interest on the debt.

■ And as that U.S. debt surges with all the new deficits this decade, and interest rates inevitably begin to rise, interest on the debt will rise both in real terms and as a share of the budget.

Again, is France the future of the West?



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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■ An article by Amos Harel titled "Israeli Army Chief Made It Clear: A Collision With Iran Is Almost Inevitable" was posted at [haaretz.com](http://haaretz.com) on Dec. 26, 2019.

■ An article by TOI Staff titled "Netanyahu: Putin Said That If I Were Not PM, Israel and Russia Would Be at War" was posted at [timesofisrael.com](http://timesofisrael.com) on Dec. 25, 2019.

■ An article by Joseph Krauss titled "Israel's Embattled Netanyahu Wins Landslide Primary [in Preparation of a Third Election in Less Than a Year]" was posted at [apnews.com](http://apnews.com) on Dec. 26, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled "Iran Starts Internet Shutdown Before Possible New Protests—Reports" was posted at [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) on Dec. 25, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled "Joint Saudi, Kuwaiti Oil Field Expected to Produce 320,000 BPD by End of 2020" was posted at [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) on Dec. 25, 2019.

■ An article titled "Lebanese Help Each Other As Economic Crisis Crushes Lives" was posted at [apnews.com](http://apnews.com) on Dec. 25, 2019.

■ An article by Bob Fredericks titled "US Spy Planes Fly Over North Korea After 'Christmas Gift' Missile Threat" was posted at [nypost.com](http://nypost.com) on Dec. 25, 2019.

■ An article by James Marson and David Gauthier-Villars titled "NATO Faces a Fresh Quandary As Turkey Tips Toward Russia" was posted at [wsj.com](http://wsj.com) on Dec. 25, 2019.

- A Reuters article by Prapan Chankaew titled "230,000 People Lost in a Day: Asia Remembers Devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 26, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Donny Kwok and Mari Saito titled " 'It Doesn't Matter If It's Christmas': Hong Kong Pro-Democracy Activists Keep Up Protests" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 25, 2019.
- An article by Paul Vecchiatto titled "South African Cabinet Rejects Farm-Size Limits in Land Reforms" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 19, 2019.
- An article by Vanessa Thorpe titled "BBC Could Restrict Journalists' Use of Twitter" was posted at theguardian.com on Dec. 21, 2019.
- An article by Francis X. Rocca titled "Pope Francis, in Christmas Message, Says Church Must Adapt to Post-Christian West" was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 21, 2019.
- An article titled "Asia's Richest Man [Mukesh Ambani] Added \$17 Billion to His Fortune This Year" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 24, 2019.
- An article by Ivan Nechepurenko titled "New Russian Method to Silence Dissent: Military Service in the Arctic" was posted at nytimes.com on Dec. 24, 2019.
- An article by Jeffrey Schaeffer and Angela Charlton titled "Notre Dame Rector: Fragile Cathedral Might Not Be Saved" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 25, 2019.



An article by Walter Williams titled "State's Second Amendment Attack" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Dec. 25, 2019. Following is the article.

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Virginia Governor Ralph Northam apologized for his medical school blackface stunt, but he will have much more to apologize for if he signs into law a bill that attacks Virginia citizens' Second Amendment rights.

The measure is Senate Bill 16, which would ban "assault" firearms and certain firearm magazines. Since Democrats have seized control of Virginia's General Assembly, they are likely to push hard for strict gun control laws.

Those laws will have zero impact on Virginia's criminals and a heavy impact on Virginia's law-abiding citizens who own, or intend to own, semi-automatic weapons for hunting or their protection.

As a friend once explained to me, "I carry a gun because I can't carry a cop."

I am proud of my fellow Virginians' response to the attack on their Second Amendment rights.

Firearm owners in the state have joined with sheriffs to form Second Amendment sanctuary counties. That means local authorities will be required to pro-

tect Second Amendment rights in the face of any attempt by Virginia's General Assembly to abrogate those rights.

Eighty-six counties—over 90%—in the Virginia commonwealth have adopted Second Amendment sanctuary resolutions. Spotsylvania County's board of supervisors voted unanimously to approve a resolution declaring that county police will not enforce state-level gun laws that violate Second Amendment rights.

Sheriff Chad Cabbage said, "Be it be known that the Page Sheriff hereby declares Page County, Virginia, as a 'Second Amendment Sanctuary,' and that the Page County Sheriff hereby declares its intent to oppose any infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms."

Culpeper County Sheriff Scott Jenkins made a vow during a board of supervisors meeting, where the board unanimously agreed to declare the county a Second Amendment constitutional county, to "properly screen and deputize thousands of our law-abiding citizens to protect their constitutional right to own firearms."

In an attempt to appease citizen resistance, Northam suggested there would be a ban on only the sales of semi-automatic rifles. He would allow gun owners to keep their current AR-15s and similar rifles as long as they registered them.

Otherwise, they must surrender the rifles. I'd urge Virginians not to fall for the registration trick. Knowing who owns what weapons is the first step to confiscation.

Governor Northam further warned, "If we have constitutional laws on the books and law enforcement officers are not enforcing those laws on the books, then there are going to be consequences, but I'll cross that bridge if and when we get to it."

Some Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill say that local police who do not enforce gun control laws should face prosecution and even threats of the use of the National Guard.

Virginians must heed the words and capture the spirit of their two most distinguished citizens, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, who wrote the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions. These resolutions referred to the federal government but are just as applicable to state governments in principle.

■ They said: "Resolved, That the several States composing the United States of America, are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their General Government . . . and whensoever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force."

Too many Americans view the Second Amendment as granting Americans the right to own firearms to go hunting and for self-protection. But the framers of our Constitution had no such intent in mind.

■ James Madison, in Federalist Paper No. 46 wrote that the Constitution preserves "the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation . . . (where) the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms."

■ Thomas Jefferson wrote: "What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "What Do Their Kids Think?" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 21, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

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When I used to go to movies regularly, I would sometimes come across fairly explicit sex scenes in some of them. Although I am not, strictly speaking, a prude, I used to hate them. Instead of thinking about the characters, I would sit there wondering what the actors and actresses' kids, friends, spouses and parents, would feel when they watched the movie. Yes, I know they're just acting and that there are 50 members of the crew looking on, but none of that would matter when it came to the emotional response of their friends and family.

These days, I rarely go out to see a movie. But I am left having somewhat similar reactions when I see the likes of Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, Jerry Nadler, Adam Schiff and Sheila Jackson Lee, devoting all their time to lying about President Trump in order to undo an election for strictly partisan reasons.

I'm assuming that all their children aren't as squalid and as morally bankrupt as Chelsea Clinton and Hunter Biden.

Are they having as difficult a time as I would be if one of my parents or even a friend was behaving in such a contemptible way?

Does it even occur to them to speak up and question the role their parent is playing in this unconstitutional farce?

Do the participants themselves ever wonder how they have wound up here, dog-paddling through the muddy swamp?

■ Where is the conscience?

As I see it, nearly every man and woman, including some very bad people, has a conscience. Of course, there will always be exceptions. There are famous psychopaths, monsters like Hitler, Stalin and Mao; and less famous ones that include serial killers, rapists and pedophiles – those who are born lacking the empathy gene.

But there are no creatures so vile, so lacking in human feeling, as the typical mob. So long as they're part of a group—be it the Cossacks, the French revolutionists, the Red Guard, a lynch mob, Antifa or the U.S. Congress – they will commit the vilest, cowardly, most gruesome acts with impunity.

## ■ Who is doing the obstructing?

One of the mysteries that has come out of the House impeachment hearings is the charge against President Trump of obstructing Congress. How it is even possible to obstruct a government body that has devoted three entire years to obstructing the President is a question I can't even begin to answer.

## ■ Subsidizing programs

The bad news on the economic front is that the feds are subsidizing the pot industry and we taxpayers are subsidizing the electric car industry. Sebastian Gorka reported that virtue-signaling rich people who buy \$80,000 Teslas are receiving \$7,000 tax credits that you and I are paying for. What's more, half the Teslas are sold to environmental faddists in California.

I suppose since we're helping pay for it, some of that reflected virtue is rightfully ours. But, personally, I'd prefer the cash.

## ■ CNN interpretation

Penny Alfonso sent me a meme. On the top half, there's a photo of President Trump announcing that he's signing an executive order protecting American Jews. On the bottom half of the page, it shows how the news is reported on CNN. It shows Trump in a Nazi uniform and the copy reads: "Donald Trump targets Jews with executive order: He is literally Hitler."

## ■ Clever sayings

Bob Hunt, who never takes a nap, passed along a few memes:

"Bread is a lot like the sun. It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist." (Someone else pointed out that even though bread has existed for thousands of years, it wasn't until a few years ago that people suddenly woke up and discovered they were allergic to something called gluten.)

"Apparently, you can't use 'beef stew' as a password on your computer. It's not stroganoff."

"A guy is shown holding a note while talking on the phone: 'How could you just walk out on me like this? Oh, and by the way, 'nit-picking' has a hyphen.'"



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Tough Guys & Gals" was posted at patriopost.us on Dec. 23, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

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I know that Democrats have for years conveyed weakness when it comes to dealing with foreign invaders, criminals and, on college campuses, opposing opinions. They seemed to think that it showed how tolerant and peace-loving they were. Even Jewish Democrats thought it conveyed a Christian message, the one about turning the other cheek.

But that was then and this is now. This is no longer your grandpappy's party. These folks don't take guff from anyone. And I mean absolutely anyone. Heck, Joe Biden and Cory Booker have both threatened to take President Trump out behind the White House and punch his lights out. And if they're willing to take on someone who's protected 24/7 by an army of Secret Service agents, imagine what's in store for you if you give them any lip.

What's more, it's not just big tough guys like Biden and Booker who are sick and tired of being toyed with, now we have little Nancy Pelosi warning reporter James Rosen "Don't mess with me."

I like to think I'm as brave as the next guy, but even I might think twice before getting on the wrong side of the small, but feisty, Speaker of the House. Still, I can't help wondering where Mrs. Pelosi gets off chewing out a reporter for simply asking her if she hates President Trump. Considering that she is now out to destroy the man and drive him from office, personal animosity wouldn't seem to be out of the question.

#### ■ She doesn't hate anyone

Now, admittedly, I'm not a Catholic, but claiming that because she's a practicing Catholic, she doesn't hate anyone (except, perhaps, pushy reporters) strikes me as a hell of a stretch. Especially when St. Nancy of San Francisco insists that she not only doesn't hate President Trump, but that she spends every waking hour praying for him.

#### ■ Abortionists take communion

What I can't figure out when it comes to Speaker Pelosi and the Church is how it is that someone who has spent decades promoting abortion as an inalienable right is still being allowed to receive Holy Communion. It does suggest to an outsider that the Catholic Church is every bit as susceptible to strongarm tactics as the House of Representatives.

#### ■ Lively Joe Biden

To his credit, Joe Biden is keeping the primaries lively and amusing. If he's not threatening to box Trump's ears, he's regaling us with tales of taking on a black gangbanger named Corn Pop in his youth and confessing that there are few things he enjoys more than having children bouncing around on his lap. In his latest attempt to revolutionize political campaigning, he called a guy who had shown up to hear him speak in Iowa an old, fat liar.

Is the guy whose chief claim to fame is that he spent eight years with his lips glued to Barack Obama's butt, unaware that if it weren't for old fat guys, he'd be trailing Marianne Williamson in the polls?

He even went so far as to challenge the geezer to a push-up contest. Somewhere, I suspect, Nancy Pelosi was swooning.

#### ■ Riches from their books

Speaking of Obama, the man who has turned ingratitude into an art form, you may have been wondering how he and Michelle were able to afford to buy a

7,000-square-foot seaside estate on Martha's Vineyard for \$12 million. It so happens it was easy-peasy. They didn't even have to go to the trouble of creating a Family Foundation like some people. It was all made possible by a \$65 million advance of her upcoming memoir, "Becoming," and an additional \$50 million from Netflix for the TV rights to what I'm sure will be a "spell-binding page-turner," at least according to the New York Times and the Washington Post.

To cover household expenses, she will continue to give canned speeches titled, rather ironically, "Capitalism is Killing America," at \$225,000-a-crack.

#### ■ Proclaimers of socialism get rich

It's becoming increasingly obvious that when Barack Obama campaigned in 2008 on the promise of redistributing the nation's wealth, he meant redistributing it from the pockets of others to his own.

These days, whether we're talking about the Obamas, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren or any of the other Democratic millionaires in Congress, Hollywood, the Silicon Valley or the media, that's what passes for Socialists. Norman Thomas, Saul Alinsky and Leon Trotsky, must be spinning like tops in their graves.

#### ■ Uber has problems

If you own stock in Uber, you might look into selling it. If you're thinking about using Uber, you might think about walking.

Over the past two years, Uber passengers have reported 6,000 incidents of sexual assault. Another 107 people have died in crashes and an additional 19 were killed in physical assaults.

Apparently, the only people who owe their jobs to shoddier vetting than Uber drivers are members of Congress.

#### ■ How can he preach climate change?

Bob Hunt passed along a meme. It shows Michael Bloomberg and identifies him simply as Hypocrite. It makes the case by pointing out that the man owns two helicopters, three planes, six boats, 11 houses and 42 cars, but insists you should take the bus to help fight climate change.

I suppose it was only space limitations that prevented the person from mentioning Bloomberg's 12 drummers drumming, 11 pipers piping, 10 lords a-leaping or even the two turtle doves and the lonely partridge in the pear tree.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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## **Deficit**

■ An article titled "Trump Signs \$1.4 Trillion in Spending [on Dec. 20], Avoids Shutdown" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 21, 2019.

## **Finances**

■ An article by Dr. Susan Berry titled "Ted Cruz Blasts Spending Bill: Funds Planned Parenthood, Gun Control" was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 21, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Jonathan Stempel titled "Buffett Protege Todd Combs to Become Geico CEO" was posted at Reuters.com on Dec. 23, 2019.

■ An article by Lisa Wolfson titled "Saturday Shopping Sets U.S. One-Day Sales Record, Analyst Says" was posted at Bloomberg.com on Dec. 23, 2019.

■ An article by Jesse Pound titled "Global Stock Markets Gained \$17 Trillion in Value in 2019" was posted at CNBC.com on Dec. 24, 2019.

## **Trade war**

■ An article by Lin Qiqing and Paul Mozur titled "China Blocks American Books As Trade War Simmers" was posted at NYTimes.com on Dec. 27, 2019.

## **Green New Deal**

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled "Biden Says He'd Displace 'Hundreds of Thousands of Blue-Collar Workers' to Create Greener Economy" was posted at CNSNews.com on Dec. 19, 2019.

■ An article by Robert Frank titled "Millionaires Support a Wealth Tax—As Long As They Aren't Getting Taxed: CNBC Survey" was posted at CNBC.com on Dec. 23, 2019.

## **Illegal immigration**

■ An article by Sarah Ruiz-Grossman titled "ICE to Collect Data From Adults Picking Up Migrant Kids From Shelters" was posted at HuffPost.com on Dec. 20, 2019.

## **Comments about weapons**

■ An article by Nick Perry titled "New Zealanders Hand in 50,000 Guns After Assault Weapon Ban" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 21, 2019.

■ An article titled "California Store Clerk Fatally Shoots Armed Robber Who Pistol Whipped Him" was posted at FoxNews.com on Dec. 24, 2019.

## **Comments about Trump support**

■ An article by Susan Jones titled "Sen. Cruz on FBI Abuse: 'How High Up the Chain Did This Go?'" was posted at CNSNews.com on Dec. 23, 2019.

■ An article by Susan Jones titled "Sen. Graham: 'I Want to Know How Far Up the Chain' the Trump-Russia Investigation Went" was posted at CNSNews.com on Dec. 23, 2019.

- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Dershowitz [Liberal Constitutional Expert]: 'Difficult to Imagine Anything More Unconstitutional' Than Pelosi Withholding Impeachment Articles" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 19, 2019.
- An article titled "Trey Gowdy: If Pelosi Thinks Trump Is an Existential Threat, Why Is She Sitting on Articles of Impeachment?" was posted at foxnews.com on Dec. 23, 2019.
- An article by Colby Itkowitz titled "Trump Is Remaking the Federal Judiciary [by Installing 187 Judges to the Federal Bench]" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 21, 2019.

### **Comments about Trump opposition**

- An article by Lindsey Ellefson titled "Rev Al Sharpton Questions Religious Conservatives Supporting Trump: Are You 'Selling Your Soul for Some Judicial Appointments?'" was posted at thewrap.com on Dec. 23, 2019.
- An article by Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney titled "House Counsel Suggests Trump Could Be Impeached Again" was posted at politico.com on Dec. 23, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Biden Promises Resumption of Obama Policies: 'We Have to Build on What We Had Started' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 20, 2019.
- An article titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Says It Would 'Be An Honor' to Be Bernie Sanders' Vice President" was posted at foxnews.com on Dec. 24, 2019.
- An article by Annie Linskey and Michelle Ye Hee Lee titled "Warren Embraced the High-Dollar Fundraiser Circuit for Years—Until Just Before Her Presidential Campaign" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 24, 2019.
- An article by Michael Mathes titled "Buttigieg Under Fire As Democratic Rivals See 2020 Threat" was posted at afp.com on Dec. 20, 2019.
- An article by David Siders titled " 'The Surge Is Real': Klobucher Makes Late Push in Iowa" was posted at politico.com on Dec. 24, 2019.
- An article by Sean Neumann titled "Evangelical Magazine *Christianity Today* Says 'Trump Should Be Impeached'—But He Fires Back" was posted at people.com on Dec. 20, 2019.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Franklin Graham Blasts *Christianity Today's* Call for Trump's Impeachment; 'My Dad [Billy Graham] Would Be Disappointed" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 21, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Heather Timmons titled "*Christianity Today* Again Slams Trump, Raises Issue of 'Unconditional Loyalty' " was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 24, 2019.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Roughly 200 Evangelical Leaders Slam *Christianity Today* for Their Impeachment Editorial" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 24, 2019.

■ An article by Maya King titled “ ‘We’ve Never Seen Spending Like This’: Bloomberg and Steyer Saturate Airwaves” was posted at politico.com on Dec. 25, 2019.

■ An article by Lee Moran titled “Robert De Niro Fantasizes About ‘Bag of S\*\*t’ Hitting Donald Trump in the Face” was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 21, 2019.

### **News about the media**

■ An article by Eric Wemple titled “Rachel Maddow Rooted for the Steele Dossier to Be True; Then, It Fell Apart” was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 26, 2019.

### **General interest**

■ An article by Pamela McClintock titled “Universal Notifies Theaters [That] CATS Is Being Updated With ‘Improved Visual Effects’ ” was posted at hollywoodreporter.com on Dec. 21, 2019.

■ An article by Matt Bagwell titled “CATS Star James Corden Admits He’s Still Not Seen the Savaged Movie, But ‘Heard It’s Terrible’ ” was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 24, 2019.



***Isaiah 55:6-11***—“Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”