

Eye on the World

May 16, 2020

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 May 16, 2020.

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 Gayatri Vinayak titled "Herd Immunity and Trust: Tackling the Pandemic the Swedish Way" was posted at yahoo.com on May 11, 2020. Following is the article.

In January, this year, a friend shifted to Sweden with her husband, who works with an IT major. Then, the pandemic was still remote, localized in China.

A couple of months later, India went into lockdown. As my friend kept getting updates about her friends and family members back home during what is being called the world's most stringent lockdown, she realized how things were different in Sweden. While she, and some of the other Indian families she knows there, have been self-quarantining at home, on the streets of Stockholm and other parts of the country, it has been business as usual, albeit with some restrictions.

No official lockdown

For, Sweden is one of the only countries in the world to not impose an official lockdown.

In Sweden, as opposed to its neighboring countries, and most of Europe, there is no ban on moving outdoors, nor are bars, restaurants, offices or even primary schools shut.

While some offices have adopted work from home policies, many people still travel to work.

Trust and common sense

Rather, the country has been relying on trust, common sense and recommendations of social distancing, led by the state epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell, who has said that locking people at home will not work in the long term.

It is not that life is completely normal. Sweden has imposed four rules to counter the pandemic.

- No visiting elderly care homes or retirement homes.
- No public gatherings of over 50 people
- Restaurants and bars need to make sure they are not crowded, and all guests need to be seated.
- It has also closed high schools and universities; though primary schools are still open.

Freedom a top priority

So, why is Sweden not following the rest of the world in locking down completely?

For one, the country considers personal freedom a top priority. By locking down the society, people's freedom of movement would be curtailed.

It is also amongst the most egalitarian countries in the world—by shutting down schools, the younger children would have to stay at home, which would be difficult for working parents, especially if they are single/low earning.

Further, the trust factor between the Swedish government and its people is high. According to data, many people have been voluntarily self-quarantining, while public transport usage has dropped significantly.

Further, more than half of homes in Sweden are single individual households, while most of the elderly live in care homes. Surveys have also found that three-fourths of Swedes maintain the recommended minimum one-meter distance from each other—something that is pretty common in a country that takes personal space seriously. Even before the pandemic, the Swedes have maintained a minimum of an arm's length from each other.

Herd immunity

However, another approach that Sweden is relying on (though it has not confirmed the same officially) is that of getting herd immunity—a highly debated term.

This happens when a large proportion (around 80 per cent) of the population develops immunity to a virus. This could either be through mass immunization or by having people infected with the virus, recovering from it and developing immunity to it.

In Sweden's case, Tegnell has estimated that 40 per cent of the population will develop immunity to the virus by May end, and, as opposed to its neigh-

bors such as Finland, in case a second wave happens in autumn, most Swedes would already be immune to it.

This move has caused much controversy.

- Some have called it reckless and dangerous, since the country has a total of 25,265 cases and 3,175 deaths.

- Others, especially many Swedes, believe that this is the right move.

Sweden's death rate is nearly six times that of its neighboring countries, Norway and Finland. A large number of deaths are among the older population. Sweden also recently had to crack down on a few bars and restaurants in Stockholm where social distancing rules were being flouted.

England considered herd immunity

Sweden is not the only country to try this approach—in early March, there were reports that the United Kingdom was hoping to reduce the impact of the virus by allowing more people to get infected and develop immunity to the virus.

However, projections showed that the country's health services would not be able keep up with the rapidly rising number of infected people, deaths were also increasing.

By end-March, the country ordered all schools, pubs, restaurants shut and banned large gathering. The country's Chief Scientific Advisor, Patrick Vallance, later clarified that herd immunity was never the goal, rather it was to try and suppress the peak and keep it at a level at which the country's medical services could cope.

Herd immunity debate and India

With cases rising, and the severe economic fallout of the pandemic and lockdown, some commentators are debating whether herd immunity would be a better approach for a developing country like India.

According to experts in favor of such an approach, India's young population, which require less intense hospitalization and could have a lower fatality rate, could make the country an option for trying out the herd immunity way.

However, this would have to be reached in a way that it does not affect the most vulnerable—the elderly population and those with co-morbidities.

A team of researchers wondered that if by controlling the way the virus is released in the next seven months, 60 per cent of the population could get immune to it by November.

The experts believe that the approach adopted could be to allow most of India's under-60 population to get back to normal life while restricting large gatherings encouraging social distancing and making masks compulsory.

Overload the system?

However, critics of the policy maintain that allowing more people to get infected would mean stretching the country's already-strained healthcare system in order to be able to accommodate the critically ill who need hospitalization.

India also has a high proportion of people with diabetes, cardiac illnesses and other comorbidities, hence increasing the risk factor. Many Indians also live in multi-generational families, hence, protecting the elderly from the virus may be difficult if people are allowed to mingle freely.

Further, considering the COVID-19, which emerged late last year, is still understudied, it would be difficult to predict how protective the antibody response would be and for how long.

In the absence of a vaccine, herd immunity may be a risky experiment, which could prove dangerous if things go wrong in a country like India. As the health ministry said on Friday, with no early tapering off in sight, Indians would have to learn to live with the virus and adjust to new social distancing norms.



An article by Manish Singh titled “India’s Contact-Tracing App Tops 100 Million Users in 41 Days” was posted at techcrunch.com on May 12, 2020. Following is the article.

As most countries across the globe scramble to build an app to trace the spread of coronavirus, India’s solution is growing at an unprecedented scale—despite being dogged by privacy concerns.

New Delhi’s contact-tracing app, called Aarogya Setu, has reached 100 million users of India’s 450 million smartphone owners in 41 days after its release. A representative at think-tank NITI Aayog told TechCrunch that this 100 million figure represents unique users—and not just those who had merely downloaded the app.

The app, available on Android and iOS, allows people to self-assess whether they have caught the infectious disease by answering a set of questions. It then uses this information to alert users if they have come in contact with someone who might be infected. (It’s also available for feature-phone users through an USSD system.)

Aarogya Setu, which means healthcare bridge in Hindi, also delivers updates on India’s testing efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic and tips to stay safe.

But the app has also raised concerns from privacy advocates and security researchers. The app stores location data of users when they sign up and logs details of those who have reported facing symptoms of the disease. New Delhi has dubbed this as a feature—even as this centralization approach is in stark contrast with how smartphone vendors Apple and Google are tackling this.

Aarogya Setu is also not open source, which means that independent researchers can’t audit the code and find any flaws in it.

Ajay Prakash Sawhney, secretary in the ministry of electronics and information technology, said in an interview with Indian daily Business Standard that

the government has not made the source code of Aarogya Setu public because it feared many will point to flaws in it and overburden the staff overseeing the app's development.

"If I open up my source code, and say, some 50,000 people start criticizing it, raising issues every day, we will have to spend too much time reacting to those. We might do that for all in due course, but right now we are planning to open it up to some of the top cybersecurity experts in the country," he said.

There are some other concerns, too. Singapore is relying on its contact-tracing app, called TraceTogether, for disease control but not using it to enforce lockdowns.

Aarogya Setu, in contrast, retains the flexibility to do just that, or to ensure compliance of legal orders and so on, according to New Delhi-based digital rights advocacy group Internet Freedom Foundation.

Additionally, Aarogya Setu, which was launched as a voluntary app, is now mandatory for all public and private sector organizations resuming work and for those who wish to travel with Indian railways.

In Noida, at the outskirts of New Delhi, those found without the app installed on their phone could be fined or sent to jail, the local authority said earlier this month.

"Aarogya Setu is an important step in our fight against COVID-19. By leveraging technology, it provides important information.

As more and more people use it, its effectiveness will increase. I urge all to download it," a quote attributed to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears on the homepage of the app.

The confirmed coronavirus caseload in India, which ordered one of the world's most stringent lockdowns in late March, has risen steadily in recent weeks. More than 71,600 confirmed infections have been reported to date, with about 2,320 confirmed dead.

In a televised address on Tuesday, Modi unveiled a \$266 billion stimulus package to help the nation's stalled economy recover.



An article by Katy Romy titled "Coronavirus Contact Tracing App: Friend or Foe?" was posted at [swissinfo.ch](https://www.swissinfo.ch) on May 8, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Contact tracing apps, which alert users when they have been in contact with infected people, are being touted as crucial aids to control the spread of Covid-19. But critics warn of data privacy concerns, and Switzerland's parliament has demanded a legal basis for such an app.

Europe is slowly emerging from an artificial coma induced by the Covid-19 pandemic. As countries ease their lockdowns and try to avoid a second wave of infections, the race is on to develop smartphone apps to trace the spread

of the virus. However, the tech sprint has raised numerous questions among the general population and scientific community.

The decentralized contact tracing app DP-3T, developed by the two Swiss federal institutes of technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) and Lausanne (EPFL), will launch on May 13 in a pilot phase “for a certain group of the population” until the end of the month, Health Minister Alain Berset said on Friday [May 8].

The app, which people can voluntarily download and use, employs Bluetooth technology to allow smartphones to communicate with each another anonymously.

If a person tests positive for coronavirus, all the people with whom that person was in contact in previous days—less than two meters proximity for more than 15 minutes—are alerted via the app to isolate themselves and get tested.

The DP-3T system is decentralized with contacts and data stored on devices rather than on an external server.

Legal basis required

On Tuesday, the Swiss House of Representatives approved a proposal external link that urges the government to prepare a bill to ensure the app is defined under Swiss law. The Senate had agreed a similar proposal earlier.

During this week’s debate, critics argued that it was important to set clear rules for the use of such a tracking device, including data security and the voluntary principle for participants.

“We must avoid, for example, that businesses or institutions demand the use of the application from their customers or visitors,” argued center-right Radical parliamentarian Damien Cottier.

Opponents say a specific law is not necessary as current regulations are enough under the law on communicable diseases in force since 2016.

Berset told reporters on May 8 that the Federal Council (executive body) would submit a draft bill to parliament by May 20, which will be discussed in the June session.

The May test phase will go ahead, as no specific legal basis is necessary for trials. Berset urged parliament to quickly resolve the matter but acknowledged that if parliament says no to the legal basis] it will be “finished for the app.”

Who will download it?

Researchers frequently cite a participation rate of 60% by the population to ensure the contact tracing is efficient.

“It is all the more important to establish a solid foundation on which to build public confidence,” added Cottier.

But some epidemiologists believe that a 20-30% usage rate would already help to control the spread of infections.

Over the past few months the Swiss authorities have pushed ahead with the development of the DP-3T app “as fast as possible” while insisting on its safety.

“The individual’s doctor and the cantonal contact tracing center will be the only ones to know the identity of the infected person. In addition, only they can authorize an infected person to report the infection to the system anonymously, by transmitting an authorization code,” the Federal Council states in its position paper.

Skeptical

Solange Ghernaouti, a professor at the University of Lausanne and cybersecurity expert, is among the skeptics. She welcomes parliament’s decision to create a legal basis to “put safeguards against misuse.”

“The drafting of a law will make it possible to have a public debate on the role of digital technology in finding solutions to concrete problems,” she said. But Ghernaouti warns that a legal basis is not necessarily the solution to all problems.

“There’s no guarantee that the system won’t be hacked. What’s more, there will be some people trying to do just that, because we know that health-related data is worth its weight in gold,” she said.

Breaking anonymity requires certain specialist hacking skills, explained the professor. But she is certain that anyone who tries will be successful by cross-checking information.

‘Swiss-made’—so what?

And arguing that it is “Swiss made” system is not a guarantee of security either, warned Ghernaouti.

“No single country has found the miracle app or proven its effectiveness. Under these conditions, it would be better not to use it,” she said.

Aside from the security problems, the Lausanne professor is worried by the speed with which the tracing system has been created.

Backing contact tracing app

A recent poll showed that 60% of Swiss residents would install the coronavirus tracking app on their smartphone.

The percentage was slightly higher in the French-speaking (61%) and Italian-speaking regions (72%), which are more affected by Covid-19, than in German-speaking Switzerland (59%).

However, the authors of the Sotomo survey pointed out that it was not certain that people in favor would actually go ahead and download the app. “The goodwill of the population will have to be supported by an appropriate information campaign,” they said.

“There won’t be enough time for it to be tested and validated properly, but a huge amount of trust has been put in it. Insufficient time seems to have been set aside to create something good.”

The risk, she added, is that if we accept such surveillance systems during crises, it might not be possible to uninstall them later.

“Do we want to help epidemiologists control pandemics? Of course, but not at any price,” said Ghernaouti. Her concerns have been shared by other scientists, even at the EPFL.

Anonymity guaranteed

For several weeks, the EPFL researchers involved in the project have been working 15-hour days to finalize the app.

“Technically, we are almost there. We’ll be ready to launch the application when the authorities decide to do so,” said EPFL spokesperson Emmanuel Barraud.

While acknowledging the security concerns, Barraud reassures that “the application is designed to guarantee anonymity . . . Everything happens on the users’ phones, not on a central server, which could be the target of a hacking attempt.”

Even if someone manages to get into the system, they would only find encrypted information, said Barraud. “They’d get a list of codes that can’t be traced back to anyone. This is the only information that circulates between two phones,” he explained.

Despite this, some researchers working on the project say the high expectations should be downplayed.

“The Bluetooth technology isn’t perfect; it’s going to miss some people. And just because you’re alerted to the fact that you’ve been in contact with an infected person doesn’t mean that it’s that person who infected you,” Carmela Troncoso, a computer scientist at Lausanne who has been involved in designing and coding DP-3T, recently told the weekly *Illustré* magazine.

She insists that the app must be seen as “a complement to manual contact tracing.”

Compulsory in Asia, voluntary in Europe

Most Asian countries affected by coronavirus have trialed patient tracking technologies that use the geo-location capabilities of smartphones. Various techniques have been tested with data directly sent to telephone operators. Users, however, generally get no choice in the matter.

Western nations have instead been inspired by an app developed in February by Singapore, which is less intrusive and downloaded on a voluntary basis. It uses Bluetooth instead of GPS technology. Bluetooth could offer more privacy protections because they amass less information, collecting only data about who people meet but not where they are.

In Singapore, however, contact information is centralized on a government-run database. Many Western countries have preferred to adapt this system.

ETH Zurich and EPFL initially collaborated in an-European Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing, or PEPP-PT project, which brings together organizations from eight European countries.

However, they felt that the system was too centralized and had concerns about privacy protection. They therefore developed their own DP-3T application, based on a so-called decentralized system. The DP-3T system is supported by a loose coalition of European states that includes Germany and Italy.

France announced earlier this week that its StopCovid app should be available as of June 2.



A Reuters article by Philip Pullella titled "Coronavirus Drains Vatican Coffers As Income Falls, Deficits Loom" was posted at reuters.com on May 13, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Late last month, the Vatican announced the coronavirus pandemic had forced Pope Francis to postpone an annual fund raising campaign among Catholics worldwide to help him carry out his ministry.

The delay of "Peter's Pence" by more than three months to the first weekend in October has come at a particularly bad time, as other revenues, notably from the Vatican Museums, slow to a trickle.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc with the Vatican's finances, forcing it to dip into reserve funds and implement some of the toughest cost control measures ever in the tiny city-state.

Against this bleak backdrop, top Vatican administrators held an emergency meeting in late March. They ordered a freeze on promotions and hirings and a ban on overtime, travel and large events.

An internal memo seen by Reuters said the decisions, effective for the rest of the year, were taken "to mitigate, at least in the short-term, the grave economic impact ... and to avoid any further immediate drastic measures."

A follow-up letter in April told department heads that, in keeping with the pope's policy, they could not fire people.

The Peter's Pence fund, which brings in an estimated \$50-65 million yearly, aims to help the pope's activities as head of the 1.3 billion-member Church and support charitable projects in the world's neediest areas.

But for more than 30 years the Holy See has been forced to tap into it to keep regular operations going and to plug the Holy See's administrative budget deficit.

The pandemic has also drastically slowed the flow of funds from the Vatican Museums, which received some 7 million visitors last year and are the city's most reliable cash cow.

The museums, which generate an estimated \$100 million yearly, have been closed since March 8 and are not expected to open until late May at the earliest, resulting in up to three months of lost revenue.



“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.

■ An article by Will Taylor titled “Coronavirus: Number of People Infected Probably Much Lower Than First Thought: WHO Reports” was posted at yahoouk.com on May 12, 2020.

■ A Reuters article by Piroshka Van De Woux titled “Plastic Shields in Place, Dutch Schools to Reopen Amid Coronavirus” was posted at reuters.com on May 8, 2020.

■ An article by James Crisp titled “Could You Pick Four Lockdown Friends? Belgiums Must Make Tough Choices As Restrictions Ease” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on May 8, 2020.

■ An article by Andy Wells titled “Coronavirus: Reopening of Schools ‘Unlikely to Cause Huge Problems’, Disease Expert Says” was posted at yahoouk.com on May 13, 2020.

■ A Reuters article by Aditi Shah titled “India’s Automakers Warn of Up to 45% Sales Drop As Economy Slumps Amid Pandemic” was posted at reuters.com on May 11, 2020.

■ An article titled “India’s Prime Minister Announces Huge Virus Relief Package” was posted at apnews.com on May 12, 2020.

■ An article titled “India to Develop Own Vaccine As ICMR [Indian Council of Medical Research] Partners With Bharat Biotech [Vaccines and Bio-Therapeutics in India]” was posted at yahoo.com on May 10, 2020.

■ A Reuters article titled “Chinese Coronavirus Vaccine Could Be Tested, Manufactured in Canada” was posted at reuters.com on May 12, 2020.

■ An article by Bill Bostock titled “Wuhan Ordered All Its 11 Million Residents to Be Tested for the Coronavirus After 6 New Cases Were Found—Ending the City’s 35-Day Streak of No New Infections” was posted at businessinsider.com on May 12, 2020.

■ A Reuters article titled “In Japan, World’s Longest-Running TV Cartoon [Sazae-San Show] Switches to Re-runs As Coronavirus Halts Production” was posted at reuters.com on May 10, 2020.

■ An article by Mac Margolis titled “For Argentina, Coronavirus Is a Matter of Life or Debt” was posted at bloomberg.com on May 8, 2020.

■ An article by Foreign Staff title “Brazil Government Warns of Economic Collapse in 30 Days” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on May 8, 2020.

- An article by Jon Gambrell titled “Dubai Airport CEO: Global Travel Still Up in Air Over Virus” was posted at apnews.com on May 13, 2020.
- An article by Matthew Lee titled “Amid Pandemic, [Mike] Pompeo to Visit Israel for Annexation Talks” was posted at apnews.com on May 8, 2020.
- An article by Amir Havasi titled “19 Dead As Iran Warship Hit by ‘Friendly Fire’ in Tense Gulf” was posted at afp.com on May 10, 2020.
- An article titled “India, China in High-Altitude Fist fight at Disputed Border [at the 15,000-Foot Nathu La Crossing in the Northeastern State of Sikkim]” was posted at afp.com on May 10, 2020.
- An article by Susan Fraser titled “Turkey Accuses Five Nations [France, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Greece and Cyprus] of Forming ‘Alliance of Evil’ ” was posted at apnews.com on May 12, 2020.
- An article by Jennifer Lemman titled “Chunks of China’s Powerful Rocket Fall Back to Earth, Narrowly Missing NYC” was posted at yahoo.com on May 13, 2020.



An article by Mollie Hemingway titled “Obama, Biden Oval Office Meeting on January 5 [2017] Was Key to Entire Anti-Trump Operation” was posted at thefederalist.com on May 8, 2020. Following is the article.

Information released in the Justice Department’s motion to dismiss the case it brought against Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn confirms the significance of a January 5, 2017, meeting at the Obama White House.

It was at this meeting that Obama gave guidance to key officials who would be tasked with protecting his administration’s utilization of secretly funded Clinton campaign research, which alleged Trump was involved in a treasonous plot to collude with Russia, from being discovered or stopped by the incoming administration.

“President Obama said he wants to be sure that, as we engage with the incoming team, we are mindful to ascertain if there is any reason that we cannot share information fully as it relates to Russia,” National Security Advisor Susan Rice wrote in an unusual email to herself about the meeting that was also attended by Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, FBI Director James Comey, and Vice President Joe Biden.

A clearer picture is emerging of the drastic steps that were taken to accomplish Obama’s goal in the following weeks and months. Shortly thereafter, high-level operatives began intensely leaking selective information supporting a supposed Russia-Trump conspiracy theory, the incoming National Security Advisor was ambushed, and the incoming Attorney General was forced to recuse himself from oversight of investigations of President Trump.

At each major point in the operation, explosive media leaks were a key strategy in the operation to take down Trump.

Not only was information on Russia not fully shared with the incoming Trump team, as Obama directs, the leaks and ambushes made the transition chaotic, scared quality individuals away from working in the administration, made effective governance almost impossible, and materially damaged national security.

When Comey was finally fired on May 9, in part for his duplicitousness regarding his handling of the Russia collusion theory, he orchestrated the launch of a Special Counsel probe that continued his efforts for another two years.

That probe ended with Mueller finding no evidence of any American colluding with Russia to steal the 2016 election, much less Trump or anyone connected to him.

An analysis of the timeline from early 2017 shows a clear pattern of behavior from the federal officials running the collusion operation against the Trump campaign.

It also shows how essential media leaks were to their strategy to sideline key law enforcement and intelligence officials and cripple the ability of the incoming Trump administration to run the country.

Here's a timeline of the key moments and news articles of the efforts, per Obama's direction, to prevent the Trump administration from learning about the FBI's operation against it.

January 4

Following the closure of a pretextually dubious and politically motivated FBI investigation of Flynn at the beginning of January, the leadership of the FBI scrambled to reopen a case against Flynn, the man who in his role as National Security Advisor would have to review their Russia collusion investigation.

FBI officials openly discussed their concern about briefing the veteran intelligence official on what they had done to the Trump campaign and transition team and what they were planning to do to the incoming Trump administration.

Flynn had to be dealt with. The FBI's top counterintelligence official would later memorialize discussions about the FBI's attempts to "get [Flynn] fired."

No reopening was needed, they determined, when they discovered they had failed to close the previous investigation. They found this mistake "amazing" and "serendipitously good" and said "our utter incompetence actually helps us."

Even more noteworthy were texts from FBI's #2 counterintelligence official Peter Strzok to FBI lawyer Lisa Page noting that the "7th floor," a reference to Comey and his deputy director Andrew McCabe, was running the show.

January 5

Yates, Comey, CIA Director John Brennan, and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper briefed Obama on Russia-related matters in the Oval Office. Biden and Rice also attended.

After the Obama briefing, the intelligence chiefs who would be leaving at the end of the term were dismissed and Yates and Comey, who would continue in the Trump administration, were asked to stay.

Not only did Obama give his guidance about how to perpetuate the Russia collusion theory investigations, he also talked about Flynn's conversations with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, according to both Comey and Yates.

Interestingly, Clapper, Comey, and Yates all said that they did not brief Obama about these phone calls. Clapper testified he did not brief Obama on the calls, Yates learned about the calls from Obama himself during that meeting, and Comey also testified he didn't brief Obama about the calls, even though the intelligence was an FBI product.

Rice, who publicly lied but later admitted under oath to her widespread use of unmasked intelligence at the end of the Obama administration, likely briefed Obama on the calls and would have had access to the intelligence. Comey mentions the Logan Act at this meeting.

It was this meeting that Rice memorialized in a bizarre inauguration-day email to herself that claimed Obama told the gathered to do everything "by the book."

But Rice also noted in her email that the key point of discussion in that meeting was whether and how to withhold national security information, likely including details of the investigation into Trump himself, from the incoming Trump national security team.

January 6

An ostensibly similar briefing about Russian interference efforts during the 2016 campaign was given to President-elect Trump. After that briefing, Comey privately briefed Trump on the most salacious and absurd "pee tape" allegation in the Christopher Steele dossier, a document the FBI had already used to obtain a warrant to spy on Trump campaign affiliate Carter Page.

Comey told Trump he was telling him because CNN was looking for any reason it could find to publish a story about Russia having compromising information on him, and he wanted to warn Trump about it.

He did not mention the dossier was completely unverified or that it was the product of a secretly funded operation by the Clinton campaign and Democratic National Committee.

January 10

In an amazing coincidence, CNN found the excuse to publish the Russia claims after a high-level Obama intelligence operative leaked that Comey had briefed Trump about the dossier.

This selective leak, which was credulously accepted by CNN reporters Evan Perez, Jim Sciutto, Jake Tapper and Carl Bernstein, may have been the most important step in the operation to harm the incoming Trump administration.

The leak of the briefing of Trump was used to legitimize a ridiculous dossier full of allegations the FBI knew to be false that multiple news organizations had previously refused to report on for lack of substantiation, and created a cloud of suspicion over Trump's campaign and administration by insinuating he was being blackmailed by Russia.

January 12

The next part of the strategy was the explosive leak to David Ignatius of the Washington Post to legitimize the use against Flynn of the Logan Act, a likely unconstitutional 1799 law prohibiting private individuals, not public incoming national security advisors, from discussing foreign policy with foreign governments. Ignatius accepted the leak from the Obama official.

He wrote that Flynn had called Kislyak. "What did Flynn say, and did it undercut the U.S. sanctions? The Logan Act (though never enforced) bars U.S. citizens from correspondence intending to influence a foreign government about 'disputes' with the United States. Was its spirit violated?"

Flynn's routine and appropriate phone call became fodder for a developing grand conspiracy theory of Russia collusion.

In discussions with investigators, both DOJ's Mary McCord and Comey conspicuously cite this Ignatius column as somehow meaningful in the approach they would take with Flynn.

"Nothing, to my mind, happens until the 13th of January, when David Ignatius publishes a column that contains a reference to communication Michael Flynn had with the Russians. That was on the 13th of January," Comey said of the column that ran online on January 12.

In fact, quite a bit had happened at the FBI prior to that leak, with much conversation about how to utilize the Logan Act against Flynn. And the leak-fueled Ignatius column would later be used by FBI officials to justify an illegal ambush interview of Flynn in the White House.

January 23

Another important criminal leak was given to Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller of the *Washington Post*, also based on criminal leaks.

Their article, headlined "FBI reviewed Flynn's calls with Russian ambassador but found nothing illicit," was intended to make Flynn feel safe and put him at ease about the FBI stance on those calls the day before they planned to ambush him in an interview.

The article was used to publicize false information when it said, "Although Flynn's contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak were listened to, Flynn himself is not the active target of an investigation, U.S. officials said."

In fact, emails prior to this date confirm Flynn was their prime target. This article was later cited by McCabe as the reason why they were justified in concealing from Flynn the real purpose of their interview.

Flynn later asked McCabe if he knew how all the information about his phone calls had been made public and whether it had been leaked. Any potential response from McCabe to Flynn has been redacted from his own notes about the conversation.

January 24

Comey later admitted he broke every protocol to send agents to interview Flynn and try to catch him in a lie. FBI officials strategized how to keep Flynn from knowing he was a target of the investigation or asking for an attorney to represent him in the interview.

The January 23 *Washington Post* article, which falsely stated that Flynn was not an FBI target, was key to that strategy.

Though the interviewing agents said they could detect no “tells” indicating he lied, and he carefully phrased everything in the interview, he later was induced to plead guilty to lying in this interview.

Ostensibly because White House officials downplayed the Kislyak phone calls, presumably in light of what Flynn had told them about the calls, Yates would go to the White House the next day and insinuate Flynn should probably be fired.

February 9

The strategy to get Flynn fired didn't immediately work so another leak was deployed to Greg Miller, Adam Entous and Ellen Nakashima of the *Washington Post*.

That article, headline “National security adviser Flynn discussed sanctions with Russian ambassador, despite denials, officials say,” was sourced to people who happened to share senior FBI leadership's views on the Logan Act.

This article was also based on criminal leaks of top secret information of phone call intercepts and laid out the FBI's case for why Flynn's contacts with a foreign adversary were a problem.

The fact that such phone calls are routine, not to mention Flynn's case that improved relations with Russia in a world where China, North Korea, and Iran were posing increasing threats, never made it into these articles for context.

February 13

The operation finally succeeded in getting Flynn fired and rendering him unable to review the operations against the Trump campaign, Trump transition team, and Trump administration.

March 1

Flynn was the first obstacle who had to be overcome. Attorney General Jeff Sessions was the next. The Trump loyalist with a strong Department of Justice background would also need to be briefed on the anti-Trump efforts unless he could be sidelined.

Comey admitted that early in Sessions' tenure, he deliberately hid Russia-related information from Sessions because, "it made little sense to report it to Attorney General Sessions, who we expected would likely recuse himself from involvement in Russia-related investigations."

To secure that recusal, yet another leak was deployed to the Washington Post's Adam Entous, Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller.

The leak was intended to tar Sessions as a secret Russian agent and was dramatically spun as "Sessions Spoke Twice To Russian Envoy: Revelation contradicts his testimony at confirmation hearing."

One meeting was in passing and the other was in his function as a United States Senator, but the hysteria was such that the Post authors could get away with suggesting Sessions was too compromised to oversee the Department of Justice's counterintelligence operations involving Russia.

It is perhaps worth noting that the Special Counsel idea was pushed in this article.

March 2

Sessions recused himself from oversight of the FBI's anti-Trump operation, providing no meaningful oversight to an operation that would be spun into a Special Counsel by mid-May.

With the removal of Trump's National Security Advisor and his Attorney General, there was no longer any chance of Trump loyalists discovering what Obama holdovers at the FBI were actually doing to get Trump thrown out of office.

After Trump fired Comey for managerial incompetence on May 9, deceptively edited and misleading leaks to the *New York Times* ordered by Comey himself were used to gin up a Special Counsel run exclusively by left-wing anti-Trump partisans who continued the operation without any meaningful oversight for another two years.

This stunning operation was not just a typical battle between political foes, nor merely an example of media bias against political enemies. Instead, this entire operation was a deliberate and direct attack on the foundation of American governance.

In light of the newly declassified documents released in recent days, it is clear that understanding what happened in that January 5 Oval Office meeting is essential to understanding the full scope and breadth of the corrupt operation against the Trump administration.

It is long past time for lawmakers in Congress who are actually interested in oversight of the federal government and the media to demand answers about what really happened in that meeting from every single participant, including Obama and Biden.



An article by Margot Cleveland titled "Why Did Obama Tell the FBI to Hide Its Activities From the Trump Administration?" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 11, 2020. Following is the article.

In 1980, a teenage Amy Carter left a burnt cake in the oven of the White House's family quarters in a reflex of childish revenge for her father's landslide loss to Ronald Reagan. In 2017, Barack Obama and Joe Biden avenged Donald Trump's surprise victory over Hillary Clinton by leaving what they claim was a Russian agent in the West Wing.

That conclusion inevitably follows if one accepts as credible the FBI's supposed predicates for launching the Crossfire Hurricane investigation into the Trump campaign and the four related probes into George Papadopoulos, Carter Page, Paul Manafort, and Michael Flynn.

On July 31, 2016, the FBI opened the Crossfire Hurricane counterintelligence investigation of the Trump campaign, purportedly to learn if members of the Trump team were "coordinating or cooperating" with the Russian government to influence or interfere with the 2016 elections.

By August 16, 2016, the FBI had opened four subsidiary investigations on individuals connected to the campaign, claiming their connections to Russian businesses, pro-Russian factions, or Russian-owned entities "reasonably indicated" they "may wittingly or unwittingly be involved in activity on behalf of the Russian Federation which may constitute a federal crime or threat to the national security."

Let the 'Russian spy' keep spying

The FBI maintained that it opened the Crossfire Hurricane investigation, rather than providing Trump a defensive briefing on the report from a "friendly foreign government" that Russia had reached out to a member of his campaign to release damaging information on Hillary Clinton, because agents "had no indication as to which person in the Trump campaign allegedly received the offer from the Russians."

According to Counterintelligence Division Assistant Director E.W. "Bill" Priestap, "had we provided a defensive briefing to someone on the Trump campaign, we would have alerted the campaign to what we were looking into, and, if someone on the campaign was engaged with the Russians, he/she would very likely change his/her tactics and/or otherwise seek to cover-up his/her activities, thereby preventing us from finding the truth."

Former deputy director of the FBI Andy McCabe likewise told Inspector General Michael Horowitz "that he did not consider a defensive briefing as an alternative to opening a counterintelligence case" because, "based on the [Friendly Foreign Government] information, the FBI did not know if any member of the campaign was coordinating with Russia and that the FBI did not brief people who 'could potentially be the subjects that you are investigating or looking for.' "

McCabe further explained that “in a sensitive counterintelligence matter, it was essential to have a better understanding of what was occurring before taking an overt step such as providing a defensive briefing.”

While “there are plenty of problems with Priestap and McCabe’s rationale, as well as the entire predicate for Crossfire Hurricane,” a bigger problem arises if you take them at their word, because by the time Americans elected Trump president on November 8, 2016, the FBI had “a better understanding of what was occurring,” and had identified four individuals of concern.

But still the FBI did not provide president-elect Trump a defensive briefing.

Instructing holdovers to keep serving Obama

Then came the January 5, 2017, meeting in the Oval Office where Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, FBI Director James Comey, CIA Director John Brennan, and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper briefed President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and National Security Advisor Susan Rice on Russia-related issues.

Rice later wrote an email to herself on January 20, 2017—Trump’s inauguration day and her last day in the White House—purporting to summarize that meeting.

“On January 5, following a briefing by IC leadership on Russian hacking during the 2016 Presidential election,” Rice wrote, “President Obama had a brief follow-on conversation with FBI Director Jim Comey and Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates in the Oval Office. Vice President Biden and I were also present.”

According to Rice, “President Obama began the conversation by stressing his continued commitment to ensuring that every aspect of this issue is handled by the Intelligence and law enforcement communities ‘by the book.’”

But then she added a significant caveat to that “commitment”: “From a national security perspective, however, President Obama said he wants to be sure that, as we engage with the incoming team, we are mindful to ascertain if there is any reason that we cannot share information fully as it relates to Russia.”

The next portion of the email is classified, but Rice then noted that “the President asked Comey to inform him if anything changes in the next few weeks that should affect how we share classified information with the incoming team. Comey said he would.”

At the time Obama suggested to Yates and Comey—who were to keep their posts under the Trump administration—that the hold-overs consider withholding information from the incoming administration, Obama knew that President Trump had named Flynn to serve as national security advisor.

Obama also knew there was an ongoing FBI investigation into Flynn premised on Flynn being a Russian agent.

Yet, rather than direct his team to provide the president-elect a briefing on the Russia investigation as it related to Flynn, Obama suggested it would be appropriate to withhold such information from the Trump administration.

That is just what Comey did. The following day, Comey provided “an ostensibly similar briefing about Russian interference efforts during the 2016 campaign,” and then “[a]fter that briefing, Comey privately briefed Trump on the most salacious and absurd ‘pee tape’ allegation in the Christopher Steele dossier.”

Lying to the President

While Comey found it important to tell the incoming commander-in-chief of the ridiculous “pee tape” “intel,” following Obama’s guidance the then-FBI director did not tell Trump that the FBI had an active investigation into Trump’s incoming national security advisor predicated on the idea that Flynn was potentially a Russian agent.

Even after Obama had left office and Comey had a new commander-in-chief to report to, Comey continued to follow Obama’s prompt by withholding intel from Trump.

Recently released documents included as exhibits to the Department of Justice’s motion to dismiss the criminal charges against Flynn reveal this reality.

During that same January 5, 2017, Oval Office meeting in which Obama counseled Comey to be cautious in sharing information about Russia with the Trump administration, Obama and Comey discussed Flynn’s late-December telephone calls with the Russian ambassador.

Following Trump’s inauguration, Comey remained adamant that Trump not be briefed of the details of Flynn’s call with the Russian ambassador, and then “broke every protocol” to preempt Yates’s directive that he inform the White House of the conversation, by sending agents to interview Flynn in the West Wing on January 24, 2017.

But it wasn’t just Obama and Comey’s secreting of the supposed intel about Flynn that shows they put damaging the incoming Trump administration above protecting the country from purported Russian agents.

The Flynn investigation was but one aspect of the Crossfire Hurricane probe, and Trump was not briefed on the other investigations either—most significantly the continuing investigation of Carter Page.

Secrets and lies

The FBI’s targeting of Page included the use of four constitutionally defective Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act surveillance warrants. The recent declassification of additional aspects of the four FISA applications exposes that the FBI believed Page continued to communicate with higher-ups in the Trump administration.

The April 7, 2017 and the June 28, 2017, FISA renewal applications that sought continued surveillance on Page stated that “the FBI assesses that Page continues to have access to senior U.S. Government officials.”

They put damaging the incoming Trump administration above protecting the country from purported Russian agents.

The renewal applications added that “the FBI further assesses that Page is attempting to downplay his contacts with the Russian Government and to dispel the controversy surrounding him, so as to make him more viable as a foreign policy expert who will be in a position, due to his continued contacts with senior U.S. Government officials, to influence U.S. foreign policy towards Russia.”

Yet the FBI did not brief Trump on its supposed belief “that Russia sought to use Page’s connections with administration officials to influence America’s foreign policy.

Instead, as the newly declassified information reveals, following Trump’s inauguration, the FBI sought to, and apparently succeeded in, intercepting communications between Page and members of the Trump administration.”

So, not only was the FBI content with leaving a supposed Russian agent in the West Wing, it had no qualms about allowing another purported Russian agent to communicate with “senior U.S. Government officials” with the goal of influencing the Trump administration’s foreign policy.

Obama told us to

The FBI, however, is not solely to blame for keeping this “important” information from Trump: They were only following the counsel of former President Barack Obama.

While a young Amy Carter can be forgiven for her juvenile vision of departing the White House “content with the picture of Nancy Reagan struggling to clean out the oven,” there is no excuse for an outgoing president to withhold “intel” on supposed Russian agents from the president-elect.

And there is no excuse for an outgoing president to advise hold-over high-ranking officials to do likewise once the new president has taken office.

Or, rather, the only excuse is an equally scandalous one: Obama knew the Russia investigation was a hoax from the get-go.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Dr. Fauci, Heal Thyself” was posted at patriotpost.us on May 9, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

I have disliked Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), from the first time I saw him on stage at the daily briefings from the White House. It just struck me that he was enjoying the spotlight far more than a Washington bureaucrat should.

■ Changing the numbers

I then began hating the way he kept changing the numbers when asked how many people he thought were likely to die from the Coronavirus. I kept hoping he'd simply say he didn't know, which would have been the truth, but instead he kept tossing around numbers in the millions and the hundreds of thousands, leading to the panic and the nation-wide shutdown.

■ Center of attention

While it's true that it was a stupid question to ask about a disease that nobody appeared to know anything about, including whether warm weather was likely to have any effect on it; whether people who contracted it could contract it a second time; or even whether the blood of those who had contracted it but displayed no symptoms could provide antibodies that could protect others; Fauci could have simply said there was no way to predict the severity of the pandemic. But he enjoyed being the center of attention far too much.

■ Fauci and Trump

There's no doubt that the fact that at times Fauci and President Trump have been at loggerheads helped convince the folks at "SNL" that Fauci deserved the homage, which probably explains why Dr. Eleanor Bix hasn't been portrayed by Tina Fey.

Part of the tension between Trump and the gnome with a medical degree is that Trump has threatened to cut off funding to the World Health Organization, the group that has acted to play down China's role in causing and prolonging the pandemic. Fauci is a longtime defender of the WHO and its corrupt director, Dr. Tedros.

But Fauci's crimes don't stop there. In 2014, the U.S. placed a moratorium on the development of dangerous Coronavirus strains. In spite of that, in 2015, in his role as head of the NIAID, Fauci broke the law by diverting \$3.4 million to the Wuhan Laboratory.

Then, in 2017, Fauci predicted there would be a pandemic during Trump's first term. When people are that good at predicting, their friends generally urge them to test their luck at Vegas.

■ Dr. Rashid Buttar

In a video that has gone viral, Dr. Rashid Buttar says that Fauci should be arrested and tried for treason. Do I hear a second?

■ More FBI mischief

New evidence in the form of FBI memos has turned up showing that the Bureau not only conducted a sting operation in order to ensnare Trump's National Security Advisor Michael Flynn but got him to confess to lying to the FBI by threatening to prosecute his son if he didn't.

If Attorney General William Barr doesn't start cleaning house at the FBI, he will be as culpable as Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch.

The fact that the likes of James Comey, Andrew McCabe, Peter Strzok, Bruce Ohr, Lisa Page, James Clapper and Michael Hayden, all members of the fascistic Dark State, are still running around loose is proof that the justice system in America is two-tiered, one set of laws and rules for the rabble and another for those who work or who have ever worked for the federal government.

■ Word ticklers

Arthur Hershey passed along a list that is titled "Oxymorons," but I think they're more like word ticklers, but I'll let you decide:

Doesn't it seem odd that the third hand on a watch is called the second hand?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?

Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?

Why do tugboats push their barges?

Why do people sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" when they're already there?

Why are they called "stands" when they're made for sitting?

Why is it called "after dark" when it is really "after light"?

Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?

Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?

Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?

Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?

Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?

How come "abbreviated" is such a long word?



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "A Teaching Moment" was posted at patriotpост.us on May 11, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

If you're searching for an upside to the shutdown, it should be that we all got a taste of Socialism with its inevitable shortages, rationing and loss of our constitutional freedoms.

■ Government interference

We saw the government ordering companies to stop producing what they're in business to produce and, instead, to start producing (masks, sanitizers, ventilators) whatever the government orders them to start manufacturing.

■ People want free things

Unfortunately, it's not likely to have the reaction it should have—a revulsion over the loss of liberty and our inalienable rights—on the young and stupid.

That's because Socialism sounds so nice. So far as Bernie Sanders' supporters are concerned, it translates to free healthcare, free college and free money.

■ Socialism and "social justice"

In addition, they have come to associate the word with things like social justice and social media, made available to them by billionaire commissars named Bezos, Zuckerberg and Bloomberg. They're not too crazy about social-distancing, but as we saw on the beaches of Florida, they chose to ignore it.

If the youngsters had the sense they were allegedly born with, this would open their eyes and minds to the truth of what Socialism actually means.

■ Education system

Unfortunately, most of them had logic and commonsense sucked out of their skulls by the zombies who makes up the ranks of today's schoolteachers, oafs who can rattle off twaddle about racism, the moral imperative of open borders and the inalienable right to abortions and to identify oneself, irrespective of biology, as man, woman or other.

■ Sanders and Biden

They are the young louts who prayed that Bernie Sanders, a man who never worked a day in his life and yet owns three homes and has a million bucks in the bank, would be the next president. But as an expression of their tolerance, they are now willing to settle for the born-again Socialist, Joe Biden.

■ Under the cover of the virus

Like a stage magician who employs misdirection so you won't notice his palming cards and coins, China is using the pandemic they created to promote its political agenda. They are cracking down on freedom-seeking dissidents in Hong Kong, expanding its military influence in the South China Sea and even sank a South Korean fishing boat in waters they insist they own.

■ Expanding territory

It's beginning to seem inevitable that China is looking to start a war. I assume that if the rumors of Kim Jong-un's death are true, they will swoop in and annex North Korea just as they did Tibet.

China has already made major inroads in Africa and Latin America, mainly by extending credit to countries that have no way to pay the money back.

■ 24/7 surveillance

The best solution would be a revolution in China, but the leaders, thanks in good part to the technology provided by the traitors who infest the Silicon Valley, have pretty much ensured that it will be impossible for an uprising to get underway because of the 24/7 surveillance they maintain on the entire population.

■ Congressional leadership?

In response to the Coronavirus, Nancy Pelosi boasted "We are the captains of the ship. We're the last to leave."

If anything, Admiral Pelosi and the other rats in the House were the first to abandon the ship of state and are now the last to return.

Even with the Senate back in session, the House members are still collecting their checks while hunkered down at home.

■ Biden's checkered past

When Hillary Clinton was giving her endorsement to Joe Biden, she claimed he is "the personification of hope, optimism and authenticity for this country."

Authenticity? This is the same shmoe who in 1988 pretended to be the son of a Welsh coalminer when he appropriated in its entirety a speech by the head of England's Labour Party, Neil Kinnock.

■ WHO flip-flopping

Back in 2004, people were suggesting that if flip-flopping was an Olympic event, John Kerry would bring home the gold. These days, he'd be given stiff competition by the World Health Organization. The WHO has changed its opinion when it comes to the potential number of fatalities, to the usefulness of masks and now even to the need for social distancing.

■ WHO finally endorsed Sweden

In case you missed the news in the midst of fascistic governors arbitrarily extending shutdowns, the WHO has now endorsed Sweden's approach to the pandemic. Sweden didn't close up any shops or restaurants, didn't prevent people from hugging each other, didn't curtail concerts, sporting events or church services. And they didn't cost a single person his or her job or cause a meltdown of the nation's economy.

In the end, their percentage of cases and deaths mirrored our own.

■ Suggested questions

In response to Bret Baier's invitation to supply questions for the two-hour Trump Townhall he and Martha McCallum were going to host, I submitted the following.

"Why haven't such high-profile members of the Deep State as James Comey, Andrew McCabe, John Brennan and Peter Strzok, been indicted?"

"How are the American people expected to believe there isn't a two-tier justice system when those four, along with Hillary Clinton, James Clapper, Michael Hayden and Lois Lerner, are still walking around free, while Trump supporters Michael Flynn, Roger Stone, George Papadopoulos and Carter Page, have either gone to jail, are headed to jail or, at the very least, had their reputations and financial savings gutted by the Deep State?"



An article by Bridget Read titled "Breonna Taylor Was Shot and Killed by Police in Her Own Home [in Louisville, Ky., on March 13]" was posted at the-cut.com on May 14, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Breonna Taylor, 26, an EMT and aspiring nurse in Louisville, Ky., was shot eight times by police after they barged into her home in the middle of the night in March, in what her family is calling a botched drug-warrant execution. No drugs were found.

And according to a lawsuit filed by Taylor's family, the warrant in question targeted another person, who had already been detained by the time police entered Taylor's home.

Her case languished for weeks before attracting national outrage.

Now, Taylor's family has retained lawyer Benjamin Crump (who is also representing some of [Ahmaud] Arbery's family members), in a lawsuit accusing police of wrongful death, excessive force and gross negligence.

Crump told the *Washington Post* that Breonna's name should be known by everybody in America "because she was in her own home, doing absolutely nothing wrong."

Taylor "had plans," her mother, Tamika Palmer, said. "She had a whole plan on becoming a nurse and buying a house and then starting a family. Breonna had her head on straight, and she was a very decent person."

What happened to Breonna Taylor?

According to the Taylor family's lawsuit, plainclothes police officers arrived at Taylor's apartment at around 12:30 a.m. on March 13.

- Taylor and her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, were asleep in a bedroom and woke up suddenly, believing that someone was breaking in.
- Police entered "without knocking and without announcing themselves as police officers," the lawsuit says.

(LMPD insists they "knocked on the door several times and announced their presence as police who were there with a search warrant." The lawsuit contends that multiple neighbors gave statements contradicting this claim.)

"While police may claim to have identified themselves, they did not. Mr. Walker and Ms. Taylor again heard a large bang on the door," Walker's attorney wrote in a motion.

"Again, when they inquired there was no response that there was police outside. At this point, the door suddenly explodes. Counsel believes that police hit the door with a battering ram."

Taylor's mother told the *Washington Post* that she had received a call from Walker, who said someone was trying to break into the apartment before shouting, "I think they shot Breonna."

- According to his attorney, Walker fired a shot in self-defense and struck an officer in the leg. Walker is a licensed firearm carrier.

- In response, police opened fire, shooting more than 20 rounds into Taylor's home, striking objects in the living room, dining room, kitchen, hallway, bathroom, and both bedrooms.
- Taylor was shot at least eight times, and was pronounced dead at the scene.
- Walker was arrested and charged with assault and attempted murder on a police officer. Later in the month, he was released from jail on home incarceration.
- The officers involved in the shooting—identified as Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove—were placed on administrative reassignment pending the outcome of an investigation.

Why did police come to Taylor's apartment?

The lawsuit raises questions about why police targeted Taylor's apartment in the first place. Her family maintains that it was a botched search-warrant execution.

According to the *Courier-Journal*, Taylor wasn't the main subject of the investigation that prompted police to enter her home. Records show that the narcotics investigation focused on a suspect named Jamarcus Glover, who was believed to be connected to a "trap house" more than ten miles from Taylor's apartment.

Police believed that Glover was receiving mail and keeping drugs or money earned from drugs at Taylor's home, and a judge signed off on a search warrant that included Taylor's address just before 1 a.m. on March 13.

The warrant included a "no knock" provision, which allowed law-enforcement officers to enter Taylor's house without identifying themselves—the "no knock" was deemed necessary because "these drug traffickers have a history of attempting to destroy evidence, have cameras on the location that compromise detectives once an approach to the dwelling is made, and have a history of fleeing from law enforcement," according to police records.

But the Taylor family attorneys say that Glover, the main target of the investigation, was already "located and identified by LMPD prior to the warrant being executed at Breonna's home."

"Breonna had committed no crime, posed no immediate threat to the safety of the defendants and did not actively resist or attempt to evade arrest prior to being repeatedly shot and killed by the defendants," the suit argues.



"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.

Deficit

- An article by Robert J. Samuelson titled "The National Debt Is Out of Control" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on May 10, 2020.

■ An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Spending and Deficit Set All-Time Records; Feds Spent \$3.3 Trillion Through April While Running \$1.48 Trillion Deficit" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 13, 2020.

Federal reserve

■ An article by Jeff Cox titled "[Fed Chairman Jerome] Powell Says More Policy Help May Be Needed to Pull the US Out of Economic Downturn" was posted at cnbc.com on May 13, 2020.

Coronavirus and civil liberties

■ An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Sheriff [Chad Bianco of Riverside County, California] Rejects Stay-at-Home, Won't Make Criminals Out of Business Owners, Working Single Moms" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 14, 2020.

■ An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "VA Sheriff: We Won't 'Trample' Citizens' 'Constitutional Freedoms' to Enforce Governor's [Health] Edict"

■ An article by Kathryn Watson titled "Trump Says He Would Mobilize Military to Distribute Coronavirus Vaccine When It's Ready" was posted at cbsnews.com on May 14, 2020.

Stimulus checks

■ An article by Rocky Mengie titled "Is a Second Round of Stimulus Checks for \$2,000 Each Month in Our Future?" was posted at kiplinger.com on May 9, 2020.

■ An article by Justin Baragona titled "Texas Salon Owner [Who Was Jailed] Admits to 'The View' She Received PPP Funds Before Court Date" was posted at thedailybeast.com on May 11, 2020.

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled "Nikki Haley: 'The Government Ended Up Helping a Lot of People They Shouldn't Have' in COVID-19 Stimulus Bills" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 13, 2020.

Finances

■ An article titled "[TV Host] Mike Rowe: I Have a Front Row Seat to the Greatest Self-Inflicted Economy Disaster in History" was posted at foxnews.com on May 9, 2020.

■ An article by Hayley Miller titled "Steven Mnuchin: Actual U.S. Unemployment Rate 'Could Be' Close to 25%" was posted at huffpost.com on May 10, 2020.

■ An article by Jeff Cox titled "Weekly Jobless Claims Total 2.981 Million, Bringing Coronavirus Tally to 36.5 Million" was posted at cnbc.com on May 14, 2020.

■ An article by Tristan Justice titled "Pandemic Panic Laid Off Nearly 3 Million Americans Last Week, 36 Million Within Two Months" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 14, 2020.

■ A Reuters article titled "U.S. Next Week to Start Purchasing \$3 Billion Worth of Farm Goods: Trump" was posted at reuters.com on May 9, 2020.

- An article by Katherine Rodriguez titled "USDA to Purchase \$470 Million in Excess Food From Farmers, Deliver to Needy" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on May 9, 2020.
- An article by John Biers titled "Wave of COVID-19 Bankruptcies Poses Next Threat to US Economy" was posted at [afp.com](https://www.afp.com) on May 13, 2020.

Coronavirus and religion

- An article by Gabriella Swerling titled "Churches [in England] May Not Be Back to Normal by End of the Year, Bishop [Sarah Mullally] Warns" was posted at [telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk) on May 10, 2020.
- An article titled "Church Pastor Calls on All Churches Nationwide to Open in Support of Religious Freedom" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on May 14, 2020.

Green New Deal

- Looking back to July, an article by Adam Shaw titled "AOC's Top Aide Admits Green New Deal About the Economy, Not Climate" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on July 12, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "5 Mexican Nationals Arrested by Border Patrol Agents in Maine" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on May 13, 2020.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Elana Schor titled "Gun Control Group Starts Faith-Driven Push Ahead of Election" was posted at [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) on May 12, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Tobias Hoonhout titled "Group of Senate Republicans Urges Trump to Suspend 'All Guest Workers Visas' Until Unemployment Returns to 'Normal Levels' " was posted at [nationalreview.com](https://www.nationalreview.com) on May 7, 2020.
- An article titled "Mike Huckabee: No Elected Official Who Orders a Lock-down Should Get a Paycheck As Long As We Are Shut Down" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on May 8, 2020.
- A Reuters article by David Lawder titled "Trump Threatens New Taxes on Companies That Make Goods Outside United States" was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on May 14, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

- Looking back to April, an article by Glenn Kessler, Salvador Rizzo and Meg Kelly titled "President Trump Made 18,000 False or Misleading Claims in 1,170 Days" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on April 14, 2020.
- An article by Ariel Ziber titled "Obama Blasts Trump's Handling of Coronavirus Pandemic As 'An Absolute Chaotic Disaster' and Blames the President

for America Being More 'Selfish, Tribal and Divided' in Leaked Call" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on May 9, 2020.

■ An article by Julie Pace titled "[Barack] Obama Emerges As Central Figure in 2020 Presidential Race" was posted at apnews.com on May 14, 2020.

■ An article by Louis Casiano titled "Feinstein, After Strong Defense of Blasey Ford, Questions Tara Reade's Biden Sex-Assault Claim" was posted at foxnews.com on May 7, 2020.

■ An article by Guy Benson titled "Simple Question: Based on What Evidence Should Christine Blasey Ford Be Believed, But Not Tara Reade?" was posted at townhall.com on May 14, 2020.

■ An article by CNSNews.com Staff titled "Biden Will Ensure 'Every Survivor of . . . Sexual Violence Is Offered the Services of a Highly-Trained Advocate' " was posted at cnsnews.com on May 14, 2020.

■ An article by Christopher Cadelago and Natasha Korecki titled "Kamala [Harris] Emerges As Early Biden VP Favorite As Sting of [Her] Debate Attacks [Against Biden] Fades" was posted at politico.com on May 10, 2020.

■ An article by Jeremy Wallace titled "Joe Biden Turns to Beto O'Rourke for Events to Rally Young Voters" was posted at houston chronicle.com on May 12, 2020.

■ A Reuters article titled "AOC to Co-Head Biden Climate Change Panel" was posted at reuters.com on May 13, 2020.

■ An article by Leia Idliby titled "Rahm Emanuel Tells The View [That] Trump Is a 'Pawn' in Chinese and Russian Efforts to 'Destroy' American Confidence" was posted at mediaite.com on May 14, 2020.

■ A Reuters article titled "California to Use Mail-In Ballots for All 2020 Voters Due to Pandemic" was posted at reuters.com on May 8, 2020.

■ An article by Emer Scully titled "San Antonio Passes Resolution Declaring the Term 'Chinese Virus' Hate Speech; Ted Cruz Calls the Decision 'Nuts' " was posted at dailymail.co.uk on May 8, 2020.

■ An article by Jordan Moreau titled "Guns N' Roses [Rock Band] Tears Into Trump With 'Live N' Let Die With COVID 45' Shirt" was posted at variety.com on May 13, 2020.

■ An article by Alex Thompson and James Arlan titled "Dems Form New Super PAC to Oust Lindsey Graham" was posted at politico.com on May 14, 2020.

News about the media

■ An article by Matt Vespa titled "WSJ Columnist [Kimberley Strassel]: After This Flynn Fiasco, There Must Be a Full Review of the Mueller Russian Collusion Probe" was posted at townhall.com on May 8, 2020.

■ An article by Julio Rosas titled "Brian Stelter [of CNN] Criticizes 'Right-Wing Media' for Obsessing Over Russia Probe and Flynn Story Instead of COVID-19 Deaths" was posted at townhall.com on May 10, 2020.

- An article by Bronson Stocking titled “NBC Deceptively Edits AG Barr’s Comments on Michael Flynn Decision” was posted at townhall.com on May 10, 2020.
- An article by Kylee Zempel titled “Asian-American Reporter [Weijia Jiang] Implies Trump Is Racist and the Anti-American Media Run With It” was posted at thefederalist.com on May 12, 2020.
- An article by Kyle Smith titled “CNN Buries Its Own Poll Results on Trump’s Favorability—Guess Why” was posted at nationalreview.com on May 13, 2020.
- An article by Joseph Guzman titled “Twitter Erupts As CNN Announces Climate Change Activist Greta Thunberg Will Appear on Coronavirus Panel” was posted at thehill.com on May 13, 2020.

General interest

- An article by Julian Shen-Berro titled “Idaho Governor Appeals to Supreme Court to Stop Trans Inmate’s Surgery” was posted at nbcnews.com on May 8, 2020.
- An article by Keith Morris and Eleftheria Kodosaki of the Cardiff Metropolitan University titled “Alzheimer’s and Dementia: Eating Plenty of [Flavonoids Like] Apples, Berries and Tea Linked to Lower Risk; New Research” was posted at yahoo.com on May 12, 2020.
- An article by Kurt Helin titled “David Robinson: Nobody, Including Isiah Thomas, Should Be Surprised He Was Left Off Dream Team [1992 Olympic Basketball]” was posted at nbc sports.com on May 9, 2020.
- An article by Sam Cooper titled “Ohio State to Pay Nearly \$41 Million Settlement to 162 Men Sexually Abused by Team Doctor” was posted at yahoosports.com on May 9, 2020.



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.”