

Thoughts and Observations on Music, Nature, and **Politics**, from the Catskill Mountains

The Grouse House Gazette

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“SHOW ME THE MONEY!”

WE ACTUALLY HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH MONEY TO SOLVE OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS... IF FIRST WE CAN SOLVE CAMPAIGN FINANCING.

It's actually pretty simple when you boil it all down to what is really important in the world.

Getting the money out of politics (and the corruption attached therein) is the singularly most important challenge and goal that we MUST take on in the coming years.

Our democracy and the lives of millions of our citizens depend on it. As Americans today live far beneath the levels of 20 years ago and we march toward an inevitable ecological disaster.

The end result of the Supreme Court's "Citizens United" decision has now reared its ugly head in the form of one Donald J. Trump.

Whom I continue to believe can actually snag the nomination (But Biden will landslide him in the "general"... think "Goldwater in 64").

But I digress... Back to the "MONEY"...

Political money is why we can't do anything REALLY SERIOUS about the environment... which is absolutely our most important issue... as our own lives and certainly the lives of future generations are hanging in the balance.

As Republicans were ALL lining up for the litmus test of denying climate change or simply stating that they weren't "scientists"... we have recently learned that we have lost [HALF of the world's wildlife in only 40 years.](#)

And as the bees... frogs... bats... and many other species continue to disappear... it won't be that long before the entire chain collapses.

World War III will NOT be about ideology...

World War III will be about food and water.

It doesn't matter that 97% of climate scientists... NASA... the Pentagon... and insurance companies... are ALL preparing for the worst when it comes to the environment...

Republicans continue to run blindly and greedily into the spinning blades of our planetary destruction in the interest of those that line their enormously overinflated political pocketbooks toward an agreed upon inevitable outcome in EVERYONE'S worst interest.

Ted Cruz's whole "sugar daddy" campaign is being primarily funded by fracking money from Texas brothers... Farris and Dan Wilks.

And of course all of the fossil fuel companies are vomiting forth money in the support of an ever-increasing carbon footprint. While Germany just set a one day record of 78% of their power coming from renewable energy.

"Money" is also the reason that America's infrastructure has been rated a "D+"... as Republicans claim we "don't have the money".

And because of a past lack of spending... it's now estimated to cost \$3.6 TRILLION to fix.

Major projects... like the critical NYC/Hudson rail tunnel... have been killed recently by the GOP. As they ask how we'd pay for it.

Maybe when they see a lot more vehicles flying off of collapsed roads and bridges... or perhaps if ONE single company... like say Halliburton... could snag the contract to rebuild ALL of the roads, bridges, railways, and airports in America... it might get done.

But of course at three times the cost of bidding it out to local "small-potato" contractors.

Jeb Bush proclaimed, ... *"I'm not sure we need a half a billion dollars for women's health programs"* ... in his awkward non-answer about the Planned Parenthood that his own mother Barbara helped build and support.

Just after the Sandy Hook slaughtering of elementary school children... 90% of Americans agreed with a congressional bill calling for expanded background checks ...

So Wayne Lapiere and his gang of NRA incendiary neanderthals picked up their phones and nailed down the coffins of future children.

And every Republican voted against it.

When first announced... fully 65% of Americans supported the current Iran deal.

But the current wave of opinion shifted as ignorance and misinformation spread across the radio airwaves and cable channels under a "fear blanket" of widely tossed cash from Israeli and Jewish lobbyists that along the way also BOUGHT the "decisions" of Democratic Senate whores Schumer and Menendez.

They already had ALL of the Republicans.

And the GOP religious freaks didn't need to be bought as they have always supported Israel... not because they give a shit about the Jews... but because they need to do their part for the "set up" of the "end times" prophecies by which they live. God help us... indeed!

This AFTER 29 scientists involved in nuclear issues praised the deal... along with a former Israeli defense minister... 26 Jewish American leaders... as well as OVER ONE HUNDRED former American Ambassadors.

Of course ALL of the GOP presidential candidates have also come out AGAINST the deal... as money from Israeli lobbyists and billionaires pours into their coffers as well.

And it's not like a Republican President hasn't done a deal with Iran before.

Reagan sold the terrorist nation within the "Axis of Evil" missiles illegally to finance an also illegal war in Central America. Which brought his low point approval rating down to 35% (not as bad as W's 25%... but it does give perspective on Obama's current 50%)

Joe Biden running on Obama's approval ratings is looking like a relatively good idea!

As the GOP also slams Obama for "not supporting Israel" one should consider that America... through Obama... BUILT their damned "Iron Dome"... that protects them every day from terrorist missiles. For a cost to U.S. tax payers of \$2.3 BILLION!

When asked by Wolf Blitzer on CNN if President Obama had been supportive... Israel's Minister of Defense stated...

"I should tell you honestly that this administration under President Obama is doing in regard to our security more than anything that I can remember in the past."

Israel receives more U.S. tax dollars (\$6.2 BILLION in 2014 alone!) than any other country on earth (after Afghanistan of course).

And yet we don't have money for women's health issues? Bridges? Education? WTF!

As Israel's leader dares to come speak before OUR government to lobby about a decision made by OUR elected officials... and against a sitting United States President! It's offensive.

If any other government on earth did this Americans would be outraged.

The Iran deal is the best it can be... but obviously it has the "Obama stench" on it... and Israeli money against it.

So GOP congressmen came out against it before they even read the damned document.

AND WE HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY!

For education... for the environment... for infrastructure... and for greatly raising the overall "quality of life" for Americans who have seen their lifestyles downgraded over the past couple of decades.

Yes... we have the money...

IF it were not already tagged to "special projects" bought and paid for previously by campaign donations to BOTH parties.

Here's a fascinating chart of every country to which we give over \$1 BILLION a year to

Country	2013	2014
Afghanistan	6,725.0	6,884.7
Israel	3,300.0	6,200.0
Congo, Dem. Rep.	2,859.3	5,534.4
Vietnam	4,115.7	3,595.5
Ethiopia	3,261.3	3,539.4
Pakistan	2,019.0	3,507.5
India	1,667.6	3,228.2
Turkey	3,033.1	3,188.9
Kenya	2,654.0	2,482.4
Tanzania	2,831.8	2,445.7
Palestine	2,001.3	2,441.9
Mozambique	2,096.9	2,084.9
Iraq	1,300.7	1,908.0
Ghana	1,807.9	1,810.2
Nigeria	1,915.8	1,768.5
Haiti	1,275.1	1,710.1
Uganda	1,655.1	1,577.8
Bangladesh	2,152.0	1,490.0
Morocco	1,480.3	1,455.6
Côte d'Ivoire	2,635.6	1,436.0
Egypt	1,806.6	1,414.4
South Africa	1,067.1	1,403.1
Serbia	1,089.8	1,379.2
Mali	1,001.3	1,280.6

Let's look at but ONE example of where our money has been wasted... AND it ISN'T in national meetings by the I.R.S... President Obama's golf games... or Michelle's garden.

May I present... EXHIBIT "A"!

THE B2 & OUR "STEALTH" AIRCRAFT!

There's really never been anything like this!

The B2 bomber is quite literally worth its weight in gold (\$2 BILLION dollars each!).

America's twenty-one B2 stealth bombers have been built at a cost of around 42 billion dollars. The planes however... have had trouble flying in the rain... have major technological issues... AND both China & Russia have now developed military technologies that render "stealth" worthless!

America has also spent over \$1 TRILLION dollars on stealth FIGHTER programs as well.

Which... if you are keeping score... is MORE than the cost of the Iraq war.

And yet our "stealth" game is NOT over.

As most REALISTIC military strategists (rather than those working for defense contractors) agree that the future belongs to much cheaper drone aircraft... Congress is moving forward with spending \$55 BILLION on a NEW "Long Range Strike Bomber" to replace the B2. And it's stealth! Just in time!

And like it's predecessors... the construction contracts will be spread throughout congressional districts across the country to assure that all the votes are in line at budget time to keep this massive money drain funded.

Not just for the military... but for elections!

So Jeb... Half a billion is too much for women's health?

How about \$55 BILLION for a worthless airplane that's just a "gift" to the greedy blood sucking vultures of the horror show that has become today's military industrial complex?

Today America spends 4.5 TIMES the defense budget of China and 8 TIMES the defense budget of Russia!

And Russia is only the 4th largest budget!

Saudi Arabia is THIRD!

So why are we fighting THEIR war in Syria?

List by the International Institute for Strategic Studies
World Military Balance 2015 (for 2014)^[2]

Rank	Country	Spending (\$ Bn.)	% of GDP
—	World total		
1	United States	581.0	3.3
2	China	129.4	1.2
3	Saudi Arabia	80.8	10.7
4	Russia	70.0	3.7

AND ABOUT OUR NAVY'S BUDGET!

Today the United States has an astounding TWELVE "Nimitz class" HUGE aircraft carriers... each complete with a large armada of support ships.

On top of that we have ELEVEN smaller "Wasp Class" aircraft carriers. So we in effect have a total of TWENTY-THREE aircraft carriers.

By comparison... Russia, the U.K., France, India, and Thailand have one each. China is building their FIRST, and Spain and Italy each have two. And the GOP says we are WEAK?

The only way to stop this insanity is through a constitutional amendment that would end "Citizens United" and take the decisions out of the hands of the corporations and the wealthy.

But again... "MONEY" will never allow it...

"The conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. We must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex."

President Dwight Eisenhower -1961

"Money doesn't talk... it swears" – Bob Dylan

PLEASE SEE SOURCE LINKS ON PAGE 3!

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