



JOEL M. SKOUSEN'S

# WORLD AFFAIRS BRIEF

COMMENTARY AND INSIGHTS ON A TROUBLED WORLD

WEEKLY EMAIL PRINTED EDITION

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## LATEST UPDATES ON LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

The official narrative continues to unravel and public skepticism increases as police announced this week that there was evidence Stephen Paddock wasn't alone in his room and that the Mandalay Bay security guard was shot outside Paddock's room and radioed for help with precise location of the suspect before the shooting spree began, not afterward. This is crucial information because police say they weren't called by the hotel personnel until 6 minutes later—after the massacre had begun and that the call was swallowed up in the mayhem of the moment.

Besides the inexcusable delay by police and SWAT teams in breaching Paddock's room, video witness testimony continues to emerge that there were other shootings at the Bellagio, Ceasars Palace, the Tropicana casino, and in the area outside of New York/New York or the Excalibur hotels. Strangely, the media is in total collusion and denial that there were any other shootings besides the mass shooting at the Route 91 Festival—where at least 3 shooters were involved.

We also found out this week that the FBI had **confiscated all the electronic media** (cell phones and laptops) of workers at the Route 91 festival after the shooting, and when they were

returned later this week, all of their photos, videos and recordings of the shooting had been

wiped clean—an obvious and futile attempt by the FBI to limit the amount of private evidence to contradict the official story. [Infowars.com](http://Infowars.com) has the story:

*Workers at the Route 91 Festival, during which Stephen Paddock unleashed his massacre have reportedly been given back their phones and laptops by the FBI only to discover that all messages and videos from the night of the attack have been wiped clean.*

*According to a Las Vegas resident who posted a status update on Facebook, "A bunch of people that worked the Route 91 said they got their cell phones back today. They all said that all their phones are completely wiped clean! All messages and info from that weekend are completely gone. Anyone else experience this?"*

*Later in the thread, a Route 91 worker confirms the story, commenting, "Of course. It's an active federal crime scene. They can wipe it clean. I was the beverage manager for the entire event. My laptop is wiped clean."*

What does he mean; they can wipe it clean because this is a federal crime scene? There is no legal requirement that the FBI can destroy evidence like this—just the opposite. They are not allowed to destroy evidence. They will say, perhaps, that they still have the evidence, but this is a clear attempt to make sure private evidence is destroyed so it limits the public's ability to contradict FBI claims.

*As Ann Coulter notes, the media's treatment of the story and the constantly changing*

*official narrative is only serving to make people more suspicious. “I don’t know what happened — and, apparently, neither do the cops — but it’s kind of odd that we keep being told things that aren’t true about the Las Vegas massacre, from the basic timeline to this weird insistence that Paddock made a good living at gambling,” writes Coulter.*

The media says Paddock’s 2015 tax return shows a 5 million dollar income that year, mostly from gambling—which is preposterous. Paddock had high roller accounts at every major casino in Vegas, and received thousands of dollars in complimentary rooms, food and drinks every month (“comps”). Casinos don’t give those kinds of perks to people who win regularly against them using mathematical bets or card formulas to win. They only give comps to high roller gamblers who regularly play and lose lots of money to casinos. In fact, they ban gamblers who show they have a system for winning regularly.

A \$5M taxable income return indicates, I believe, that Paddock had other big income that doesn’t show up as real estate income—perhaps from involvement with secret government operations. The casinos are known for operating as laundering operations for secret government payoffs. Rodney Stich in his book *Defrauding America* outlined how CIA whistleblowers told him that many judges are paid off through gambling casinos. Paddock’s gambling income may well have come through such payoffs.

*She points to many questions that remain unanswered about the attack, including why Paddock checked in to the hotel days earlier than authorities first said he did, why he was wearing gloves if he planned to commit suicide and why Paddock chose to “unload 200 rounds into the hallway at a security guard who was checking on someone else’s room before beginning his massacre.”*

According to the [Associated Press](#), “On Monday, [Clark County Sheriff Joe] Lombardo said security guard Jesus Campos was in a hallway of the Mandalay Bay hotel responding to a report of an open door when he heard drilling from Stephen Craig Paddock’s room.

*Paddock, who had installed three cameras to monitor the approach to his suite, opened fire through the door, spraying 200 shots down the hall and wounding the guard, who alerted other security officials, Lombardo said.*

<https://www.ksl.com/?sid=46093099&nid=15>

*Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo had previously said the guard was shot after gunman Stephen Paddock fired at the country music festival and that the guard’s arrival in the hallway of the Mandalay Bay hotel may have caused Paddock to stop firing.*

*It was not immediately clear why the timeline of the shooting changed a week later and what the impact could be on the investigation.*

The [latest timeline](#) now says police the security guard (Campos) didn’t communicate the location of the shooter’s room to police until 6 minutes after he had been shot, at which time the mass shooting was already begun. This doesn’t make sense, since Campos knew and would have radioed down to hotel security the location of the shooter’s room. The hotel confirms that he did, but claimed they notified police within [40 seconds](#). The hotel timeline says two police were on the 31<sup>st</sup> floor, just below the gunman, 13 minutes later, but police haven’t explained why they took so long only to appear on the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor. Some say it was to clear it of innocent people, but why not stop the shooting instead?

The real scrutiny has to be applied to Mandalay Security and demand to know why they didn't immediately call police after Campos was shot. Certainly a long burst of automatic weapons on the 32 floor and a wounded security guard would be impetus for major panic and an immediate call to police.

A Mandalay Bay maintenance man, **Steve Schuck**, has come forward explaining that he went up to check on an open fire door alarm and was got caught in the shooting with Campos. He says he also communicated the shooters room number and floor to Mandalay Bay by radio.

News reports say 200 shots were fired through the closed door at Campos and down the hall, which seems incredible. The largest magazine Paddock had in the room was a 100 round capacity. So, to shoot 200 rounds he would have had to reload once. The door would have looked like Swiss cheese. Shuck did note a pause in the shooting where he and Campos made a run for it and then the firing started again—perhaps indicating that the shooter did reload.

New evidence also suggests claimed Las Vegas shooter Stephen Paddock was not alone in the hotel room. Alex Lasker reports for [AOL News](#):

*Investigators are looking into two key pieces of evidence that seem to suggest that Las Vegas shooter Stephen Paddock was not entirely alone in his Mandalay Bay hotel room. The first is a cell phone charger that does not match any of the devices that belonged to the gunman.*

*The second is a hotel record showing that one of Paddock's key cards was used to access his room while his car was outside of the hotel's parking garage. Investigators told NBC News that while there are many possible explanations for these two puzzling*

*finds, they are hoping to get to the bottom of things immediately.*

This, combined with the [room service receipt for 2 people](#), adds to the confirmation that Paddock had an accomplice. While some have hypothesized that the room service receipt could have been for a prostitute visiting the room, the use of the electronic key card in the room while Paddock is out of the hotel indicates another guest, perhaps someone living in the adjoining room with the other broken window that no one in the media is trying to explain.

While we can easily understand how the hotel could know when an electronic key card is used, I wonder how they could determine Paddock's car was not in the hotel garage at the time? It seems he often [used valet parking](#), but that is hardly conclusive. Perhaps the hotel has RFID chips in the parking lot pass given to customers.

The leaked photos of Paddock's room show a **piece of paper** visible that some thought might be a suicide note. According to police, it was a paper with calculation on distance and bullet drop heights at various angles of attack. That, to me, is another sign of a setup. Such detailed calculations are hardly necessary when shooting only 350 yards at a down angle at a huge parking lot. It smacks like planted "sniper evidence" to add to the single shooter official story.

The fact that so **few spent casings** were found on the floor indicates that Paddock, if not an outright patsy, couldn't have been the only shooter even if he did fire some rounds to implicate the bump stock claims of authorities. There should have been piles of (over 800) empty cartridges on the floor.

It was a case of "me thinks he protests too much" when Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Undersheriff Kevin McMahill said Friday, "He

was the only shooter; I'm very confident of that," McMahill said. "I'm also confident that there were no other people in the room leading up to this event."

He's probably basing this on the fact that after bursting into the room and finding Paddock dead on the floor, police claim they didn't find anyone else there. But this is extremely flawed thinking. First of all, they didn't burst into the room until over an hour after the shooting stopped, and they didn't even arrive on the floor until 20 minutes after the shooting. An accomplice or the real shooter could have been long gone by then.

According to official police dispatch recordings at 10:25-32, almost 20 minutes after the shooting began, the police know exactly where Paddock is shooting from. "It's Room 135 on the 32nd floor. I need SWAT." "We have a four-man element at the very end of the hall."

However, the dispatchers call for SWAT only yields one man from a SWAT team. The "four man element" at the end of the hall is an eclectic group of other officers, [CNN said](#),

*An improvised team of Las Vegas police officers -- two K-9 officers, a detective and a SWAT team member -- converged on the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino on October 1, as Stephen Paddock was firing into a crowd of 22,000 concertgoers. Minutes later, they breached the gunman's hotel room door.*

*It was specialized training that allowed them to act so quickly, Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo told CBS' 60 Minutes. "I think they prevented a thousand deaths, and I think it's important for the American public to understand that," Lombardo said Sunday.*

There is no way that after this mass shooting with automatic weapons, the team that breaches

the door (screwed closed to prevent forced entry) is going to be composed of 2 dog officers, a detective and a single SWAT team member. It would have been all SWAT team if their intent to stop the shooting was real, just as the dispatcher called for. The only way that SWAT was delayed, (and they had almost an hour) is that command authority intervened. They call out SWAT for every little drug bust, and yet no major SWAT team for this breach of the door?

Officials also continue to be silent about the use of the **other room** with the busted out window adjacent to Paddock's complimentary suite, both as to its use or role in the shooting. Since either room had an unobstructed view of the target area, why break out two windows if there was only one shooter? It's frustrating how police never address the obviously flaws in the official account.

Speaking of the **broken out windows**, I searched the internet the next day for a daylight video of the exterior of the Mandalay Bay hotel to see if there were broken out windows on the middle and lower floors where muzzle flashes were seen during the shooting. There were none, but there were two windows in that area with darkened window panes, indicating some other type of window material other than the gold tinted glass everywhere else or opened to reflect the light differently. In [this video](#) you see the muzzle flashes from a lower hotel window and in [this video](#), at 1:24 min. mark, you can see there are several of the dark panes at that same location on the hotel. Could they be a special openable window pane? A window installer who worked on the Mandalay Bay said even the normal panes are capable of being opened in less than a couple of minutes if one knows the system.

Even though Paddock was obviously set up to take the entire blame for a multiple shooter operation, I still believe he was involved in some

way due to the number of gun dealers that recognized him as being the purchaser of multiple semi-auto rifles, and thousands of rounds of ammo, including an attempt to buy tracers, which have little recreational shooting purposes. [NBC noted](#),

*Law enforcement officials briefed on the investigation also said Friday that they had learned Paddock approached an ammunition dealer wanting to buy a large quantity of tracer rounds at a gun show in Phoenix last month.*

*The dealer did not have the quantity Paddock wanted, so Paddock did not end up buying anything from him, they said. The dealer told law enforcement that Paddock was neatly dressed and polite, and did not say anything that would raise a red flag. He gave the dealer the impression that he wanted the tracer rounds for recreational use with friends.*

*Law enforcement learned of the encounter because Paddock had an ammunition box bearing the dealer's name.*

Bill Still, who is a reliable source on the internet offered [these additions to the story](#):

1) Witnesses saw “security guards chasing other security guards” (this may have been the security guard in the reflective vest that I mentioned in the video in last Friday’s brief, who can be shown drawing a machine pistol and [firing at the crowd around gate 7](#)).

2) The count of the rounds fired in one of the long bursts was 103 rounds with a 3/4 sec delay in between, and another of 72. That’s important because the largest capacity magazine found in the room was 100 round magazine—incapable of firing the 103 round burst. That means there was

another shooter firing on the heels of the first shooter or using a belt fed machine gun.

3) All of the bump stock modified guns (2) in the room were jammed. This is typical of bump stock firing, and also an indication that Paddock could not have fired very many rounds.

4) Bill thinks Paddock was the patsy and the other accomplice in the room was there to kill him when his role as the patsy was complete.

### **Some Questionable Claims:**

A problematic claim by Alex Jones deserves discussion. [Alex interviewed](#) Trump campaign guy James Brower—who I don’t find credible—who claims Paddock made an ISIS videotape supposedly pledging allegiance to ISIS. Brower says he knows this from a contact in the White House, but that the White House has no intention of releasing the video—so we just have to take his word for it. Well, I’m not inclined to do so. It sounds like disinformation to me. In fact, he admits that Paddock doesn’t mention ISIS, but says Paddocks says simply that “people must die.” Why would they want to hold back this video since everyone is so desperate to find a motive?

Another questionable claim is [a video](#) by a man covered in tattoos that claims third hand that a “friend of Anonymous” (the hacker) says that someone in the Las Vegas Police Department is leaking info saying Paddock was an FBI agent involved in running guns to ISIS in the US.

Although I’m fairly certain that Paddock must have some relationship with the deep state that got him involved in this plot (mostly as a patsy), I am reluctant to accept the gun running or “arms merchant” claims.

The arms merchant theory started after a recent video of his brother Eric who starts to make a statement that sounds like “my brother is an arm....” but he stops short and says he was about to use a statement derogatory of one of the armed services. So, he never does say “arms merchant” just “arm...” which could refer to “Army” or any number of army terms. In fact, it may well be that he was repeating a statement from a previous interview, saying his brother was an “army of one,” —the similar to an Army slogan. You can [listen to it here](#) at the 15 minute mark exactly.

Arms merchants don’t buy retail at gun dealers that leave a trace from background checks. The government black operation “Fast and Furious” did so only to implicate the gun industry in the plot to lay blame. The only ISIS cells operating in the US are government false flag operations like the Garland Texas attack on the Pamela Geller anti-Muslim convention. The shooters were being followed by their FBI agent-handler, who sped off just as they opened fire.

**Shots fired at other hotels:** Perhaps the most difficult thing to understand about this entire affair is the complete denial of the media that there were other shots fired in other casinos. I can see why the FBI would want to cover up the fact that there were at least two other shooters attacking the crowds at the parking lot festival (to promote the lone shooter claim), but how could they think to cover up multiple shootings at multiple hotels in Las Vegas, with hundreds of witnesses? But that’s what is happening. In last week’s brief I covered the video of a witness to the shooting at the Bellagio hotel that broke much of the glass in the entry lobby. Here is [another update from that witness](#).

**There is ample evidence of additional shootings at other hotels:**

A young fellow and his girlfriend recount in [this video](#), their escape from the Festival shooting. They tell of hearing shots coming from the Hooters or MGM Grand hotel. After fleeing the scene, they were herded into the Tropicana hotel, where they see a muscular, swarthy skinned guy—in a black shirt, short hair, big, muscular, with a briefcase, trying to herd them all into the casino. He says “he looked like he worked there,” but when confronted the man said he didn’t.

The person making the video, though in his young 20s seems very credible and sincere. He talks without pauses, without trying to carefully craft his sentences and clearly makes his points without contradiction. He confronts the guy with several questions like, “Why can’t I go out that way?” The guy responds, “No, you need to go into the casino.” He asks him “What’s in the suitcase,” and “why are you telling me to go into the casino, and why can’t I go out?” He noted that the big guy was calm unlike everyone else in a panic. Then, just as the guy is about to open his suitcase and show him what’s inside, 3 bursts of automatic weapons fire open up inside the Tropicana Casino where he was trying to get them to go. Strangely, rather than flee the shooting like everyone else, he watches this guy run into the casino. He correctly concludes this guy must be some type of mercenary or police.

Jeff Rense thinks this guy was a Mossad agent or someone involved with the mass shooting operations. After fleeing the Tropicana, the witness says he sees shots fired outside the NY-NY or Excalibur casinos—not inside.

Jeff also thinks the Las Vegas gambling establishment (which owns the local press) suppressed all these other shootings in order to protect the city from scaring people away. If so, this has to be a major cover-up because of so

many witnesses to shooting in these other casinos.

I remember hearing an NBC reporter explaining why they don't cover these kinds of "rumors" (other shooters), because "We don't cover anything that can't be confirmed with official sources." Really? –Even if you have eye witnesses that you can interview and verify on your own? We know the media does investigative reporting all the time, outside of police claims, so this is clearly an excuse.

**More Evidence of Other Shooters:** the most interesting technical analysis that came out this past week was by Mike Adams (the Health Ranger) who did some "[forensic acoustical analysis](#)" of the gunfire to prove that shots were coming from two different distances. Adams has a scientific background and works for a lab, so he definitely comes across as very knowledgeable. Better yet, he takes you step by step through his analysis:

He picked up on something I had heard but didn't recognize. As the shooting begins before any shots are heard, you hear in all the videos at the parking lot a staccato series of ticks—which turn out to be high-pitched sounds of the bullets striking the pavement when they miss people. By comparing the difference in time between the impact (ticking sounds) and the actual sound of the shots (sound travel slower than the bullets) he can prove that some shots come from a shorter distance (250 yards) than from the Mandalay Bay hotel 550-600 yards).

### **RUSSIANS AGAIN ACCUSE US OF PRETENDING TO FIGHT ISIS**

The Russian Defense Ministry once again complained that the US is allowing jihadists to cross over from Iraq into Syria in the sector controlled by US and Syrian rebel forces. This is the second time the US has been accused of

pretending to fight ISIS. In September, Russia posted satellite photos of US special forces camps embedded in ISIS controlled areas. [Newsweek reported](#) this week that,

*Russia accused the United States on Tuesday of "pretending" to fight the Islamic State militant group (ISIS) and of deliberately reducing its air strikes in Iraq to allow the group's militants to stream into Syria to slow the Russian-backed advance of the Syrian army.*

*"Everyone sees that the U.S.-led coalition is pretending to fight Islamic State, above all in Iraq, but continuing to allegedly fight Islamic State in Syria actively for some reason," said Major-General Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for Russia's defense ministry.*

*The result, he said, had been that militants had moved in large numbers from Iraqi border areas to Deir Ezzor where they were trying to dig in on the left bank of the River Euphrates.*

*"The actions of the Pentagon and the coalition demand an explanation. Is their change of tack a desire to complicate as much as they can the Syrian army's operation, backed by the Russian air force, to take back Syrian territory to the east of the Euphrates?," asked Konashenkov.*

*"Or is it an artful move to drive Islamic State terrorists out of Iraq by forcing them into Syria and into the path of the Russian air force's pinpoint bombing?"*

*He said Syrian troops were in the midst of trying to push ISIS out of the city of Mayadeen, southeast of Deir Ezzor, but that ISIS tried daily to reinforce its ranks there*

*with "foreign mercenaries" pouring in from Iraq.*

As I have written before, the goal of the US is to stop Syrian forces from reoccupying its valuable oil fields, turning them over instead to US-backed rebels in an attempt to partition Syria.

## **TRUMP RELEASES NEW IMMIGRATION POLICY**

Stung by the backlash from supporters at his compromise with Democrats on allowing Dreamers to stay in the US, Trump took a fairly hard line in his new immigration standards which Democrats say will threaten their ability to go along with Congress' coming legislation to legalize the Dreamers permanently. [The Washington Post has the story](#), complaining loudly:

*The administration's wish list includes the funding of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, a crackdown on the influx of Central American minors and curbs on federal grants to sanctuary cities, according to a document distributed to Congress.*

*The demands were quickly denounced by Democratic leaders in Congress who had hoped to forge a deal with President Trump to protect younger immigrants, known as "dreamers," who were brought to the United States illegally as children. Trump announced plans last month to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, an Obama-era program that had provided two-year work permits to the dreamers that he called "unconstitutional."*

*About 690,000 immigrants are enrolled in DACA, but their work permits are set to begin expiring in March. Trump had met last month with Senate Minority Leader Charles*

*E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and agreed to try to strike a deal, worrying immigration hawks who feared that Trump would support a bill that would allow dreamers to gain full legal status without asking for significant border security measures in return. [But not the wall—that's what angered Trump supporters.]*

*The list released by the administration, however, would represent a major tightening of immigration laws. Cuts to legal immigration also are included. [In other words, the quotas for legal immigration would be cut back, to protect American workers.]*

*"The administration can't be serious about compromise or helping the Dreamers if they begin with a list that is anathema to the Dreamers, to the immigrant community and to the vast majority of Americans," Schumer and Pelosi said in a joint statement Sunday evening. "We told the President at our meeting that we were open to reasonable border security measures ... but this list goes so far beyond what is reasonable. This proposal fails to represent any attempt at compromise." [Democrats want it all—In other words compromise is only for Trump.]*

*The number of immigrants who have attempted to enter the country illegally across the Mexican border has dropped sharply since Trump took office.*

*Democrats had hoped that Trump, who had equivocated over the DACA program before deciding to terminate it in the face of a legal challenge from Texas, would be open to crafting a narrow legislative deal to protect the dreamers. But White House aides emphasized they expect Congress to include*

*the principles released Sunday in any package deal, a nonstarter for Democrats and some moderate Republicans.*

*Immigration hardliners expressed support for the administration's immigration proposals. Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, praised the administration for "a serious proposal" and said that "we cannot fix the DACA problem without fixing all of the issues that led to the underlying problem of illegal immigration in the first place."*

*Trump had said several times over the past month that he did not expect a DACA deal to include funding for a border wall, emphasizing that the money could be included in separate legislation. But ensuring funding for the wall, which is projected to cost more than \$25 billion, is the first priority on the list. White House aides declined to specify during the call with reporters about how much money the president would expect from Congress.*

*The administration also is proposing changes aimed at reducing the flow of tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors from Central America who have entered the United States illegally in recent years... Under current law, minors who arrive from non-contiguous nations are afforded greater protections than those from Mexico or Canada, but the Trump administration is proposing to treat them all the same in a bid to be able to deport the minors more quickly.*

## **CA DEMANDS FEDERAL AID FOR WILDFIRES, BLAMES GLOBAL WARMING**

Inevitably California Democrats (which dominate the state) are blaming the fires on global warming and demanding generous aid

from the federal government to rebuild more than 2000 homes. As I predicted in a prior WAB, once government starts bailing everyone out for flood damage and hurricanes, there's no stopping the expectations that all disasters get taxpayer support.

After Trump rightly insinuated that Puerto Rico is responsible for its terrible financial condition (even before the Hurricane) and would not have its debt wiped away by the federal government, the media went ballistic in crying foul. Puerto Rico is like a spoiled child, demanding a fix for all the corruption that has led to bad electrical generation and infrastructure problems.

The Democratic Sacramento Bee started out their [editorial](#) lambasting Trump for ending the war on coal.

*Given that, it's ironic, if not delusional, that the Trump administration would pick this, of all weeks, to move to repeal Obama-era limits on greenhouse gases, which drive global warming. Campaign promises to end the supposed "war on coal" notwithstanding, rolling back the Clean Power Plan is, in a word, nuts.*

*So is Trump's proposed 21 percent budget cut to the Department of Agriculture, which includes the forest service. And his proposed 12 percent cut to the Department of the Interior, which helps pay for firefighting. And his 23 percent cut, also proposed, to the federal budget for volunteer fire departments, which in rural areas are the first line of defense.*

Then there's a touch of reality thinking:

*Preparation for natural disaster, however, cannot just be a question of federal spending. Californians have long known how much*

*damage can be done even in an ordinary fire season. Every year, Santa Ana winds set some part of Southern California ablaze – Irvine, La Canada, Malibu. This week’s fires are hardly the first to threaten Anaheim Hills.*

*And yet, every year, rising housing demand forces development ever further into wildfire country. [Actually, development reshapes the native terrain and replaces the dry summer grasses and reduce the fuel for a huge fire when the wind blows.] Northern California communities aren’t immune. The horrific 1991 fires in the Oakland hills were among the worst in state history, burning 2,500 homes and killing 25 people, and a 2012 state study focusing on the impact of climate change warned of firestorms like the one that this week [that] consumed Santa Rosa.*

*“Our Changing Climate,” from the California Climate Change Center, warned that earlier snowmelt, higher temperatures and longer dry periods during a longer fire season would increase wildfire risk, as would changes in vegetation. But the biggest factor would be human, the report added, “especially in San Francisco Bay and Southern California counties,” as suburban development continued to exacerbate hazards from climate change.*

*So just as Hurricane Harvey must prompt a rethinking of zoning policies in cities such as Houston, this fire season has implications for development in California. The housing crisis won’t make that easy, by any stretch.*

There’s a housing crisis in California also a result of California’s highly restrictive and expensive building and zoning codes coupled with the high cost of living.

## **TRUMP’S WAR WITH ESTABLISHMENT REPUBLICANS**

Senator Bob Corker’s (R-TN) attacks on Trump have given plenty of fodder for the anti-Trump media. Corker actually called the NY Times to give them the story, so this was just a passing comment. The [Washington Post reported](#) that,

*Corker said during a 25-minute interview with Jonathan Martin. “I know for a fact that every single day at the White House, it’s a situation of trying to contain him.”*

The Times opines that “going after Corker will make it harder for Trump to get his way on both tax cuts and the Iran deal. The senator was quoted on the front page of Sunday’s *Washington Post* expressing concern about his party’s hypocrisy on the national debt. He says he will vote against any tax bill if he doesn’t think it will reduce the deficit.

*If he sincerely cared about getting big bills done, he wouldn’t go to war with Corker. Especially when his party has a working majority of just two seats in the Senate.*

Actually, Trump doesn’t have a majority at all given the 4 reliable anti-Trump Republican liberals in the Senate. And because of those Left/liberal Senators the Times can rightly brag that,

*Nine months in, with unified control of the government, Republicans have failed to pass a single significant piece of legislation into law. Trump has repeatedly gone all-in for health-care bills that subsequently failed. He’s threatened to shut down the government to get funding for his border wall — only to blink. Twice. He’s set deadlines and drawn red lines — only to see them ignored or blown past.*

2) *Trump has alienated several Senate Republicans that he needs more than they need him. Since taking office, Trump has criticized Mitch McConnell, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Jeff Flake, Lisa Murkowski, Dean Heller, Rand Paul and others by name.*

Trump got on Corker's bad side by tweeting that the reason Corker will not seek another term in 2018 is because he couldn't win a primary challenge; which may be true.

*Corker called Trump "a reality show" president last night, telling the Times that he acts "like he's doing 'The Apprentice' or something."*

Clearly there are most substantive criticisms Corker could have made.

4) *Trump still does not understand how government works. Much of what has gone haywire since January was a foreseeable consequence of electing someone with no prior government or military experience to lead the government.*

Yes and no. Yes, he has learned quickly what is required to pass legislation, but no, he hasn't learn all the intricacies on how Senate Committee chairs can wield power and thwart his agenda.

*Corker, who is close with Tillerson, believes Trump is in way over his head. He is mad that the president undercut his chief diplomat's negotiations with North Korea last weekend. [Trump was right to say Tillerson was wasting his time negotiating.]*

5) *The president's credibility is shot in Washington.*

-If he ever had any. Everyone in the establishment was against him from the beginning, including many Republicans.

But Trump is learning to use Executive Orders more carefully. This week he made some changes to the healthcare system by implementing one of Senator Rand Paul's excellent ideas on private healthcare cost sharing.

The new EO will allow small businesses to join forces to buy health insurance, create association health plans, and lift Obama administration limits on short-term health insurance plans. It also removes Obamacare subsidies for the insurance industry. I expect the courts to quickly get involved to block this EO, like every other Trump executive action.

ObamaCare advocates are deathly afraid these new cheaper health cost sharing markets will further undermine Obamacare. Yes, and they should. Anything is better than the astronomical prices of Obamacare that are passed on to healthy people. While the order by Trump does not seem to allow individuals to join, any person can start or join a small business to qualify.

The order will remove Obama administration rules on short-term health insurance plans, allowing the plans to last as long as 12 months and be renewed. The order will also allow people to use tax-advantaged accounts known as Health Reimbursement Accounts to pay for their premiums.

In other good news, Trump has pulled **US funding for UNESCO**, the UN cultural and educational slush fund that is promoting leftist and liberal causes around the world. The specific reason for pulling US funding was because of UNESCO's extreme bias toward the Palestinian partisans ( Hamas and the Palestinian Authority), which just ended their decades long conflict.

And, finally, this week, Trump will **decertify the Iran Nuclear Deal**, which pulls presidential executive support, putting Congress in charge of whether or not to follow up with action. It triggers a 60-day window for lawmakers to re-impose sanctions against Iran that were suspended in 2015 as part of the agreement. It won't actually make much difference in other countries since it is part of a UN Security Council resolution and none of the parties to that agreement are backing out. The European Union, in particular, is determined to see it continue, and so it will.

International UN inspectors have certified each year that Iran is in compliance even though US neocons within the Trump administration claim they are in constant violation. Trump's position against Iran is a product of his advisors' opinions which he parrots. Trump also continues to claim that Iran is supporting terror around the world, which is not true. Globalist allies in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Israel and Turkey, in particular) are the main sponsors of US backed terror in the form of Syria rebel jihadists and ISIS.

In other news, Trump met again (third time) with globalist icon **Henry Kissinger** and came away impressed as usual. Trump thinks Kissinger is a wonderful person—so I worry about Kissinger's ability to sway Trump. With the USS Ronald Reagan carrier task force now in Korean waters, with [another carrier en route](#) (USS Theodore Roosevelt, a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier) it appears Trump is **getting ready for some military action on North Korea**.

I suspect Kissinger was meeting with Trump to talk him out of military action on North Korea and encouraging him to give more heed to Chinese diplomacy. The globalists don't want the NK trigger event for WWII used up before

China is ready to attack the West. The White House transcript shows Kissinger's first statement on the matter was specifically about Trump's upcoming trip to Asia, where US relationships with China will be front and center.

### **BOY SCOUTS TO ADMIT GIRLS**

In another sellout to the establishment, The BSA Executive committee voted unanimously to allow girls to join the all-boy organization. Unlike the push for acceptance of gay and transgender Scouts and leaders, this move was purely financial—Scout membership has been declining steadily as the Boy Scouts become more homework oriented and de-emphasize the rigors of outdoor skills. They voted to bring in girls to boost membership and revenue.

The Girl Scouts of America are livid and have opposed this encroachment on their organization ever since it was leaked months ago.

I have two major objections to the Boy Scouts and have stopped my support accordingly:

1) National and local council executives make six figure salaries in an organization where most of the work is done by volunteers. That's the prime reason the BSA is worried about declining membership—their overhead in salaries is in the millions and they need more funds. I don't donate anymore in protest over the high salaries.

2) The Boy Scouts have long catered to the globalist notions of "World Citizenship" ever since I was a Scout, lauding the United Nations and the Marxist World Council of Churches. The leadership has long catered to high profile globalists to serve on the Executive Board. Currently this is the roster of mainstream leaders controlling the BSA:

The President is currently Randall L. Stephenson (AT&T, CFR). The previous president was

globalist former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and before him Rex Tillerson was president. All these mainstream leaders pushed Scouting to open its doors to homosexuals.

The executive vice-president and the vice-presidents include liberals like Terrence P. Dunn, Randall L. Stephenson, Lyle R. Knight, Nathan O. Rosenberg, Jack D. Furst, O. Temple Sloan Jr., Earl G. Graves, Drayton McLane Jr., Bruce D. Parker, Matthew K. Rose, Henry A. Rosenberg Jr.

The regional Boy Scout presidents, include Brian Williams (Central), Wesley J. Smith (Western), Eric Schultz (North-East), Thomas R. Yarboro (Southern).

The international commissioner is globalist Jim Turley (of Earnst and Young). He also pushed for the inclusion of gay Scouts and leaders.

The national commissioner, Charles W. Dahlquist II, is a Mormon General Authority. The BSA always gives an important seat to a Mormon leader because the Mormons are the largest sponsor of Boy Scout troops and the Church pushes its members hard to contribute millions to the BSA. The Church got an exception to the policy of allowing gays to serve as leaders, and stated this week that the Church will not go along with allowing girls in Boy Scout Troops. The Church has also opted out of Venture Scouting which some think is a prelude to leaving the BSA altogether.

The Chief Scout Executive, is Michael B. Surbaugh — a long time yes-man to all the changes that have come to Scouting.

## **BREXIT DEADLOCKED WITH EU OVER MONETARY PAYOFF**

According to [Reuters](#), EU negotiator Michel Barnier and his British counterpart, Brexit

Secretary David Davis, told reporters there had been “some progress” this week on the other two issues around Britain’s March 2019 withdrawal from the bloc on which the EU demands “sufficient progress” before it will agree to discuss a transition and future relationship.

But those kinds of diplomatic words disguise the extortion that is going on behind the scenes. The EU is secretly demanding full British participation in the new EU army, and Prime Minister May has already given several hundred millions of British Pounds to the EU central bank earmarked for that EU Army. Here is a [short video by the UK Column](#) interviewing one of the British experts on this military sellout. The UK Column has previously reported that while the UK has been cutting funding and cancelling orders for key military equipment, it has been secretly funding the EU army.

*Barnier made clear, however, that despite new momentum from concessions given by May in a speech at Florence last month 22, British proposals on expatriate citizens’ rights and the Irish border still failed the EU test, while London’s refusal to spell out a detailed cash offer was “very worrying” for business.*

*May said Britain would ensure the other 27 countries did not lose out financially from Brexit in the current EU budget period to 2020 and would honor commitments -- but Barnier said London was failing to spell out just what it was ready to pay.*

Holding May to her word, EU negotiators are demanding hundreds of millions of Euros by Britain in order to leave—which is happening in name only, since PM May has inculcated all EU law into British Law and is about to succumb to these exorbitant EU monetary demands.

## **PREPAREDNESS TIP: HOW TO STOP PROCRASTINATING, PART 1** by Andrew Skousen

Joel and I worry that many of our subscribers are still putting off effective preparations despite warnings that we are getting dangerously close to a real war. War with North Korea could start any day and although Joel thinks the chances of Russia and China using it as an excuse to start a nuclear war in are less than 50%, that's not much assurance. Would you say you are within 50% of where you would like to be in terms of preparedness? The thousands affected by the recent hurricanes, fires and earthquakes will tell you that they knew of the, but by the time the storm or fires became a real, obvious threat, it is too late to prepare. This current period of peace and prosperity is by far the best time to get prepared. Why then do we procrastinate?

**Time.** In our experience retired people have the easiest time relocating and implementing preparedness plans—largely because they finally have time for it. Certainly raising kids and earning a living seems to take up all your productive time and more, but when you look around, people still find the time to get what they want done. We research our next car carefully, browse our way through stores, try out the latest restaurants and keep up with movies and TV shows. The vastness of the internet also draws us in for hours on end—sometimes for useful learning but oftentimes not. In reality, people have much more discretionary time now than anyone has ever had in history, we just also have more options for filling our time.

Learn to recognize when crucial **windows of opportunity** come along that provide you an opening in either time or money to accomplish preparedness projects. But you must realize that those windows won't stay open indefinitely. You must jump in and work hard to finish certain projects before the window closes and something

else demands your money and attention. Use your most productive times (usually first in the morning) for the biggest projects and save the less important, distracting aspects (like checking email) for later or right before breaks when you will keep it short.

**Family Pressures.** The biggest drain on young parents' time is their kids—and appropriately so—cleaning, feeding, training, and caring for them is important. Yet we allow our kids to have tons of leisure time, where they get into trouble, make a mess or ask for our time to help them do something fun. Learn to bring them into your projects and let them be productive too. This keeps them out of trouble; they make less unproductive messes and can help you shoulder the load. Although they like being part of the action even as infants, kids can't be much help until they can follow verbal instructions. It takes a lot of patience teaching and working with them but in a few years it pays off and you will be amazed at how “many hands make light work.” Kids can also participate in preparedness projects and activities like canning, sewing, raising animals, getting a ham radio license, firearm training, camping, gathering herbs and wilderness survival.

What's that? “Not my kids” you say? Yes, nothing seems “fun” to kids if they are allowed lots of free time with friends, smart phones, TV shows, video games or social media. If your kids are caught up in these activities and have only scowls and dragging feet for home activities, it is time for a change. Parents are not providers of free food, shelter, games and modern electronics so kids can squander their time without helping out. Children start out with more playtime as they use it to develop motor skills, and later on as they explore and develop cognitive skills, but don't be duped into allowing tons of game time on electronics to boost their “coordination.” Just like sweets, the appropriate amount is as much as

we allow ourselves as parents (don't overindulge either). Keep them occupied with you on your projects and it will surprise you not only how much you can do with them, but how much fun it is to see them learn.

A spouse who is resistant to your preparedness efforts is potentially a bigger impediment. But as I outlined in a previous [preparedness tip](#), they don't usually object toward efforts to be more self-sufficient like gardening, or picking up a hobby like ham radio as long as you aren't draining the bank account. Carefully educate them about the ever more obvious dangers of a future war with Russia and China that require saving up for larger expenses. Don't give up. People sometimes use the excuse of a spouse's resistance for inaction, when there are many ways to move ahead in spite of that. Focus on the most important aspects and your family will thank you someday. I will cover other facets of overcoming procrastination in future tips. [END]