

The

NSC FOGHORN

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Special points of interest:

Facts about the U.S. Presidents

1. Abraham Lincoln was the president who was also a licensed bartender.
2. Grover Cleveland was the only president to hold the job of hangman.
3. Andrew Johnson is the only tailor ever to be president.
4. Martin Van Buren was the first to be a United States citizen All previous were born British subjects.
5. James Monroe was the shortest president of the United States standing at 5'4". He never weighed more than 100 pounds.
6. Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president at 6'4". He weighed 180 pounds.
7. The largest president in American history was William "Big Bill" Harding at 325 pounds.
8. The first president to be born outside of the original 13 states was Lincoln.
9. G. Washington refused to accept his \$25,000 salary.

Rambling Thoughts for 2010

By Ken Mahal, A.I.A. NSC President

LIFE CONTINUES AFTER THE NEW YEARS 2010 CELEBRATIONS.

At least we are here yet so guess everything went OK on New Years for us. You can figure from the comment that I wasn't awake for the celebration. After 88 years what more is there to celebrate for? Everything seems to be OK and let's hope it continues for the whole year of 2010. What is still going to give us a headache I fear is going to be our new 2,000+ pages of health care from congress. Change the thinking a little I did order the no extra pay prescription drug program so at least that should be settled, I hope. A few years back I was making several thousand dollar prescription payments each year and I guess the biggest change was when the Wal-Mart stores went to the \$4.00 plan for most generic prescriptions so at least that has become a big saving for our house. There was a time when I had AARP car insurance and found out that their Hartford carrier was not in the best interest of we the insured when we needed something from them so I dropped it and never looked back. Talk about life continuing in Las Vegas, so far we seem to be the winner's nation wide given what has happened through the country. Some parts of the country are having -51 degree wind chill and we are in the 50 degree range. The entire country is being hit the bad weather. Even in Florida the freezing weather is hitting their fruit so badly that they had to spray water to keep it from freezing. Even Europe has its problems with the UK reporting 22 people died from the worst weather in 30 years. Yes I know, we will forget this when it is 115 degrees plus next summer.

GOLF and SEX

How about a little bit of golf mixed with a little sex scandal to make the year interesting, by that I speak of Tiger Woods who just got up to speed from his operation last year and then he had to come down with an over active extra curricular sex life added to his golf game. We have been watching the golf games for a year or so and it is always interesting to watch the golfers, get to learn something about them and watch Tiger take all of them to the cleaners. He has done a lot for the increased interest in golf over the last half dozen plus years. We will miss seeing him if he doesn't get back on the game this year. Maybe Tiger has done something to even increase the interest in golf more than ever. Hooray for him if he does increase more interest in golf.

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TAXES

Knight and I have been looking at the change in our up coming real-estate taxes and mine looks like it will be about 20% lower than last year on our home. So if we think the city, county and state have trouble now lets just wait until these new tax rates hit the above who live on our real-estate taxes, will see hemorrhaging like tomorrow but that isn't going to put money in the bank for them so lets see what they do to reduce spending. I know a lot of people may not agree with me when I say our Governor Jim Gibbons has done the right thing when he promises to wield his veto pen any time the legislators want to raise taxes. As far as the county and cities go in southern Nevada I doubt if many tax payers will be rushing to the podium asking the council or commissioners to raise our taxes. It looks like Clark County already anticipates the trouble by laying off 70+ employees. Now let's see the rest of our southern Nevada entities do the same. You can say well that's all you old people do is say, don't raise my taxes. Well most of us have not had a pay check in some 25+ years so why shouldn't we say that?

WE HAVE BEEN HIT BY A TERRORIST, NOW WHAT?

Our new administration has been in office for barely a year and we have already been hit by a terrorist. Not a good start and lucky for us no American nor anyone else were killed. I do not want to see it happen to anyone on our land or in our air space for people coming into or leaving the US A. We need to protect ourselves on land, by sea and in the air. No one should ever suffer violence coming to or flying in our air space or by any other form of transportation. I know this is asking for a tremendous effort by our government but so be it. Let me and the rest of our citizens see it the same way. Yes we can and must pay what ever it takes to make our country the safest in the entire world. We need to show the world that we will not take anything from these radical terrorists who have nothing else better to do. We have a great country and I with millions of other GI's gave our blood sweat and tears to save this country in many wars that we did not start but had to finish.

Think what a terrible thing it must be to see young men trained to give up their life by doing anything in attempting to kill us. And they call it a religion. I cannot believe it.

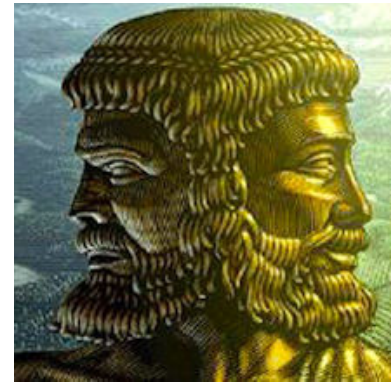
IS CHINA REALLY THE GREAT ECONOMIC FORCE WE ARE TOLD IT IS?

Having just read an article on a Mr. Chanos who is one of the big Hedge Fund managers, It is his contention that China is more likely to fail in its projected 8% growth and in fact he thinks it may be way too high a projection. I also have wondered about all of the great projections on China with what looks like the very same bust and go for broke we did in this country in the past years. They seem to be doing the very same thing we did and in the end we had to pay the price for our greed to turn our world into gold at any price. China in a way reminds me of Russia in the late sixties when they were doing the same thing and it all collapsed. What happens in these dictator run countries is that the government needs to educate their smartest young people in order to grow at such a rapid rate and when they educate these young people and at the same time do not give them equal rights to be wealthy and heard by their government things began to unravel. We were in Russia before it happened and after visiting their plants, their planners and all up and down the line that made things happen it was obvious that there was a lot of unrest by these young well educated young people and it wasn't very long before their desires were too much for the country to hold back and it wasn't long before they had their own internal revolution. I believe Chanos sees the same thing happening in China. In fact with such a huge population it is very surprising that they have been able to keep the cap on all of their very young energetic people. Once people see others getting the gold the glitter gets to them also and before long the government cannot keep up with the desire to all be equals in their country. We can only trust to the wisdom of our elected officials and bureaucrats to see to it that we have ample protection for young people in the military and to use them wisely if and when they may be needed.

AT OUR AGE WE CAN ONLY TRUST AND PRAY THAT WE DO HAVE THE MOST HONORABLE PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO DO THE RIGHT THING IF AND WHEN IT MIGHT COME TIME TO NEED THEM. I WISH ALL OF YOU A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR.

“Please Don’t Quote Me”

"January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. The Roman New Year festival was called the *Calends*, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts."



"Nothing brings out the lower traits of human nature like office-seeking. Men of good character and impulses are betrayed by it into all sorts of meanness."

Millard Fillmore Born January 7, 1800



I have never been in doubt since I was old enough to think intelligently that I would someday be made president.

William McKinley Born January 29, 1843



Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Born Jan 30, 1882



In the long term we can hope that religion will change the nature of man and reduce conflict. But history is not encouraging in this respect. The bloodiest wars in history have been religious wars.

Richard M. Nixon Born January 9, 1913

Hispanic Caucus Considering Health Care Flip-Flop

As Congressional leaders return to Washington to negotiate a final health care bill, immigration-related differences between the House and Senate versions may be forcing the pro-amnesty Congressional Hispanic Caucus to reconsider its support for health care reform.

This was the news on Capitol Hill last week as House and Senate leaders agreed to bypass the formal conference committee and instead pass the health care bill back and forth between the Senate and House. Under this scenario, the House would take up the Senate bill and either adopt it wholesale or amend it and send it back to the Senate. This process would continue with the bill “ping ponging” back and forth between the House and the Senate until the two chambers pass an identical bill. (TPMDC, January 4, 2010). This process, however, is immediately putting the CHC under pressure regarding the bill’s immigration provisions. In November, when the House originally considered health care legislation (H.R.3962), the CHC insisted that illegal aliens have access to the health care exchange created in the bill. On November 5, 2009 – just two days before the House passed its bill – CHC Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) announced that her 20-member caucus would vote against the final House bill if it included the Senate language barring illegal aliens from participating in the exchange. After a meeting with President Obama, Velazquez told Roll Call that the CHC had “made it very clear that we support the language that is in the House. We expect that the current language will not change.” (Roll Call, November 5, 2009). Ultimately, the language did not change, and the bill passed by the slimmest of margins: 220 -215. (Roll Call Vote #887, November 7, 2009). Despite the CHC’s position, the Obama Administration said it would not support illegal alien participation in the health care exchange and the Senate followed suit, passing legislation prohibiting such access (H.R. 3590). (See FAIR’s Legislative Update, November 23, 2009). The negotiations in the Senate were so tense and the compromise so tenuous that Senators warned any changes would risk their support. Desperate to deliver on President Obama’s domestic policy priority, Congressional leaders are pressuring House members to accept the Senate compromise.

Thus, the CHC must now decide whether to concede to the Senate language. Last week, Capitol Hill blogs indicated that the CHC was considering capitulating on its position in exchange for a promise from the Obama Administration that the White House would begin pushing amnesty legislation in early 2010. (TPMDC, January 4, 2010). However, on January 5, The Atlantic reported that the CHC had not reached such an agreement. In fact, a spokesperson from the CHC stated that the caucus’ position “remains the same: it opposes provisions in the Senate health care bill that would negatively impact immigrants.” (The Atlantic, January 5, 2010).

Votes on health care legislation are expected to occur sometime over the course of the next three weeks. Stay tuned to **FAIR** for the latest developments.

From: Federation For American Immigration Reform (FAIR) Web site
<http://www.fair.org> (January 11, 2010)

Senior-citizen volunteers fight Medicare fraud

By MATT SEDENSKY, Associated Press Writer Matt Sedensky, Associated Press Writer

MIAMI – The first box that arrived at Shirley Shupp's door was filled with braces to help with her arthritis. Then came a motorized scooter, just like the one the 69-year-old already owned. She hadn't asked for any of it — but Medicare was apparently footing the bill.

"There was just something that wasn't right about it," the Houston woman said.

So Shupp contacted her local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), which did its own research and then referred the matter to investigators. The equipment, worth thousands of dollars, was returned, the case was handed over to prosecutors and the perpetrators were charged with Medicare fraud.

The Senior Medicare Patrol is one of the least-known forces in the government's effort to eliminate such fraud, which drains billions of dollars a year. But it is seen as a valuable part of the Obama administration's bid to overhaul health care and bring down costs.

The 4,700 senior citizen volunteers who serve as the government's eyes and ears have been credited with saving taxpayers more than \$100 million since 1997. The program relies on elderly people to apply a lifetime's worth of common sense and skepticism.

"They can tell when something just doesn't feel right to them," said Anne Gray, who works on the SMP program in Santa Ana, Calif.

The patrol, which evolved from another program founded in 1995, now has at least one unit in every state.

SMP sends its volunteers to senior centers, retirement communities and elsewhere to encourage Medicare beneficiaries to guard their personal information, beware of too-good-to-be-true offers on medical equipment and carefully review their benefit statements. The patrol also collects tips on potential scams and fields calls from senior citizens who believe their Medicare accounts have been fraudulently billed.

When all they have is a whiff of something fishy, SMP participants often keep probing until they have enough information to send on to the FBI and investigators with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"It really is detective work," said Barbara McGinity, director of the SMP in Houston.

Patrol volunteers have witnessed all kinds of schemes. There are fly-by-night clinics where patients endure multiple tests at the hands of staff members with dubious credentials. Patients may be followed home from the hospital by companies selling home health services, scooters, glucose monitors or psychotherapy.

Often, senior citizens are persuaded to give up their personal information with an offer of something they need, such as transportation to kidney dialysis appointments.

"They get their number and they pass it around," Gray said. "They have a ring where they're selling it."

Beneficiaries may have no idea their identities have been wrongly used unless their accounts are frozen for unusual activity or they try to obtain something the government already bought for them, such as a pricey hospital bed or wheelchair.

The Obama administration says eliminating Medicare fraud is key to overhauling the health care system. But agents and prosecutors tackling the issue are relatively sparse. The patrol helps fill in the gaps.

"There is no substitute for beneficiaries and on-the-ground resources to help us know where fraud is occurring and where problems are arising," said Kimberly Brandt, who oversees Medicare anti-fraud efforts at CMS.

All told, scam artists are believed to have stolen about \$47 billion from Medicare in the 2009 fiscal year, nearly triple the toll a year earlier. Medicare spokesman Peter Ashkanaz said that since the Justice Department and Health and Human Services formed a task force after President Barack Obama took office, charges have been filed against 103 defendants in cases involving more than \$100 million in Medicare fraud.

For every Medicare thief the senior citizen volunteers successfully pursue, McGinity said, it seems there are dozens more. "Sometimes we feel like we're really beating our heads against the wall," she said.



The Senior Medicare Patrol program in the State of Nevada is under the Office of the Attorney General. The Project Director is Jo Anne Embry. More information concerning the program is available on the Web at <http://ag.state.nv.us>. The local office is located in the Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 3900. The telephone number is 486-3914. I am a volunteer for this organiza-



From the NSC Board

"Another fresh new year is here . . .
 Another year to live!
 To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
 To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me
 To live each day with zest . . .
 To daily grow and try to be
 My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
 Once more to right some wrongs,
 To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
 And sing more joyful songs!"
 - William Arthur Ward

Your membership anniversary date is on the Foghorn Mailing label. If the label is **RED**, please renew your membership, either by mail, or at the next meeting you attend. Your name is removed from the membership list 90 days after expiration.

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person.



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January 14, 1784

The Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the United States, recognized American independence and established borders for the new nation. After the British defeat at Yorktown, peace talks in Paris began in April 1782 between Richard Oswald representing Great Britain and the American Peace Commissioners Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and John Adams. The American negotiators were joined by Henry Laurens two days before the preliminary articles of peace were signed on November 30, 1782. The Treaty of Paris, formally ending the war, was not signed until September 3, 1783. The Continental Congress, which was temporarily situated in Annapolis, Maryland, at the time, ratified the Treaty of Paris on **January 14, 1784**, officially establishing the United States as an independent and sovereign nation. The Continental Congress approved preliminary articles of peace on April 15, 1783. The treaty, signed in Paris on September 3, 1783, required Congress to return the ratified document to England within six months.

Although Congress was scheduled to convene at the Maryland State House in November, as late as January 12 only seven of the thirteen states were legally represented. Operating under the weak Articles of Confederation, Congress lacked the power to enforce attendance. With the journey to England requiring approximately two months, time was running short.

Delegates continued to trickle in. Connecticut representatives presented their credentials to Congress on January 13, leaving the convention one delegate shy of a quorum. Richard Beresford of South Carolina left his sickbed in Philadelphia for Annapolis, and, after his arrival, the vote was taken.

The Treaty of Paris granted the United States territory as far west as the Mississippi River, but reserved Canada to Great Britain. Fisheries in Newfoundland remained available to Americans and navigation of the



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

Mississippi River was open to both parties. Congress promised to recommend states return confiscated loyalist property, but they had no power to enforce this demand. Creditors in both countries were free to pursue collection of debts.

