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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“Nobody, nobody can be sure they are always right. The ones who are fullest of themselves that way are the emptiest vessels.” Seamus Heaney, Irish poet, 1995 Nobel Prize for literature.

APPLIES TO ALMOST EVERYTHING TODAY:

Let’s start with Covid- 19 (CV). To refer to anyone in the two groups I’m now discussing as, “empty vessels” is totally incorrect. Both sides are doing their best to convince the world that their approach is the correct one. They are adamant in their views with compromise seemingly impossible.

On the one hand there is the recently published, Great Barrington Declaration, a

scientific treatise with 40,000 signatories that calls for allowing CV to spread naturally in order to achieve, “Herd immunity”. “People who are not vulnerable should be immediately allowed to resume life as normal, while those at higher risk are protected from infection.” The idea being that, “so many younger Americans will have been exposed and presumably will have developed some immunity, that the virus will not be able to maintain its hold...”

80 alarmed experts last week published a manifesto of their own, The John Snow Memorandum, saying the Barrington statement would endanger Americans with underlying conditions, “at least one third of Americans by most estimates, and result in perhaps a half million deaths.”

The Barrington supporters contend that by keeping older (60 + people) cloistered (yikes!!) think sheltering in place, the virus would burn itself out. The Snow experts contend that 37% of non older Americans are at significant risk because of other underlying conditions. Further, they state that many,

especially poorer families, live in close contact with younger and older families where the Barrington formula simply couldn't work. Great confusion created by many who know more than we, but, at the end of the day, leaves all of us in a state of uncertainty, battered by their conflicting views of the "Facts".

As a reflection of the foregoing, the president has recently referred to Dr. Fauci as a "disaster". Puleeze, Mr. president, lighten up on the verbiage, but at the same time, we should realize that he espouses getting most Americans back to work and play, and he recognizes the pent up frustration in much of the country.

Regardless the path eventually taken, the current statistics are not encouraging: 40 million cases world wide, and 1.1 million deaths, with 8.2 million of the cases in the U.S. (20% of the cases with 4% of the world's population). All in light of a 30% increase in cases in the U.S. this past week.

And, one more reason for rethinking our attitudes about relaxing our agoraphobia (fear

of the market place), recent studies have shown that, even with mild cases of CV, almost one third of patients have suffered altered mental states and many have shown lasting damage to the heart muscle and lungs.

Everyone depressed yet? Please don't be, but you can see we've been given a Dutch uncle warning and road map for, hopefully, only the next few months. With several other companies concluding, what appear to be successful, phase three trials, Pfizer seems to be the furthest along. The company is at such a confidence level with their vaccine that they will have 100 million doses ready to go by year end, pending FDA approval.

UKRAINE CASE CONTINUED:

Here the quote by Mr. Heaney more aptly describes these two camps that are so certain that they know the "truth", that they speak the "facts". I write, reporting what I read, see and hear – not as an advocate for either side. To me, it is all a muddle. To the two competing views, no confusion at all, each view is "right."

First, we have to go back to my write up in issue 70 where I made mention that a damaged computer had been left off at a Delaware computer repair shop with no owner identification. Subsequently, that has been clarified. It was Hunter Biden's computer. He dropped it off and left owner identification.

The potentially damaging emails that were found on the hard drive were immediately decried as works of the Kremlin by Adam Schiff (Dem), out of hand, purely on his own speculation. Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe, on the other hand, says there is no indication of any Russian involvement regarding the hard drive in question. And, just this morning, I read that DOJ and the FBI find no indication of such involvement.

Let's back up for a minute and review established facts. President Trump was impeached by the house for threatening the withholding of \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine unless that country agreed to investigate and give him reports on the activities of Joe Biden and his son in Ukraine.

Back in 2014 Viktor Shokin was named Prosecutor General in Ukraine and was given the mandate to clean up corruption among politicians and corporations in the country. In April of 2014 Hunter Biden (HB) was asked to join the board of the mega energy company, Burisma.

The office of the Prosecutor General became analogous to the fox watching the chicken coop, with two of Shokin's deputies involved in major corruption scandals themselves. Being responsible for the U.S. relations with Ukraine, VP, Joe Biden (JB) railed against the "cancer of corruption" in Ukraine. In approximately December of 2015, JB gave the Ukraine leaders a demand to fire Shokin, or the U.S. would withhold \$1 billion in aid. The situation was so serious that the International Monetary Fund threatened to do the same with another huge financing package. Bottom line, Shokin was dismissed. Good fortune for Burisma at the same time, as Shokin had been after the company. Was JB feeling any pressure to act on Shokin because of HB's connection with the company? There was no such indication at that time and, in any event, JB had totally plausible

deniability. There was more than adequate justification for firing Shokin.

The “remuneration package” related to the Chinese deal discussed in issue 70, took place in 2017 when JB was no longer in office, but is one more example of the extensive marketing of the Biden name by HB. Of course you are not going to find this income data on JB’s tax returns. HB had already said he would hold the 10% for, “The big guy”, since identified by one of the email recipients as JB.

At the end of the day, neither JB nor HB have denied the veracity of these emails and it’s unlikely any criminality could be proven. Frankly, so what if JB had a meeting with a top officer of Burisma (except for the embarrassment of Biden’s staff having denied it). As noted above, Shokin was toast anyway, a convenient coincidence that took the prosecutorial pressure off of Burisma.

I imagine the Republicans will want to investigate these and numerous other HB/JB activities ad infinitum, but if they don’t hold the Senate, it will really be up to investigative

reporters. One thing's for sure, FBI Director Christopher Wray is not going to pull another Jim Comey and come out with announcements about the hard drive before the election.

The biggest fall out from this whole scenario will be the heat felt by Twitter and Facebook for their depriving the public of a potentially injurious story regarding their candidate for president. You notice, I say their candidate. They are so far into the Kool aid that they can't brook an opposing or troublesome view.

At the end of the day, we have our two resolute sides, "I'm right and you're wrong." A recent Gallup poll reports the country has never been so divided for decades. Relative to the Bidens, we have one view, as if to say, "This is terrible. In your financial self dealings with many governments you have compromised your ability to act in the best interests of your own country." On the other hand, "Just not the case. Government business will not be influenced. Besides, what better thing can a father do for his troubled son, C'mon man."

Your faithful scribe, PB

