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QUOTES FOR THE DAY

“Whoever causes the death of a human without intent to cause death, while committing or attempting to commit a felony is guilty of murder in the second degree.”

“Whoever causes the death of a person by an act eminently dangerous to others and evincing a depraved mind without regard for human life is guilty of murder in the third degree.”

**“When someone creates an unreasonable risk and consciously takes chances of causing death or great bodily harm to another, he/she are guilty of manslaughter in the second degree.”
The State of Minnesota Statutes.**

JURY TRIAL VERSUS STREET TRIAL

May 25, 2020, that awful day with the death of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer- instant and continuing riots, fires and looting in cities across the country.

The prosecutor in Minnesota initially brought charges against the officer, Derek Chauvin, of third degree murder and/or second degree manslaughter. The cry of outrage was long and loud as those who had seen the tape “knew” that George Floyd had been murdered.

The prosecutor caved to the public pressure and several days later upgraded the charge to murder in the second degree. I wrote at length in issue 36, dated June 5th of the dangers of overcharging in a case of such volatility.

So here we are at the beginning of April 2021 with the majority of the country having already had their street and media trials, with there being no question in their minds, but that Chauvin is guilty of the highest murder charge possible – murder in the second degree.

I find it a mystery that the jury has not been sequestered, as there is no way they can be isolated from the daily continuation of the “street trial”. It would also seem from the fact that this is one of the most important trials over the issue of alleged police brutality, that a change in venue should have been effected.

It is what it is, and I saw on television a distinguished looking black gentleman – not identified when I saw the segment – decrying the death as an out and out murder and pure racism. As he pointed out, “If this had been a white man there never would have been such an outcome.”

Congressman Hakeem Jefferies says, “Chauvin murdered George Floyd in cold blood. It’s not that complicated.” A statement from the Congressional Black Caucus PAC, “Demands that all four of the arresting officers be convicted of murder.”

Then there are the innumerable statements saying that anyone who doesn’t support conviction on the most serious charge is a

**racist. That's where the "street trial" stands-
the "reality" in the minds of millions.**

**All of that comes into focus as the prosecution,
defense and jurors try to determine what the
law says.**

**Was Chauvin committing a felony in trying to
subdue Mr. Floyd? Was he evincing a depraved
mind in using an approved police tactic to
subdue a suspect? I don't have the slightest
idea how the jury is going to react to these and
many other issues the defense will bring, but I
can see where it may be difficult to have all 12
jurors vote for conviction on the most serious
charge "beyond a reasonable doubt."**

**I predict the court of public opinion will have
no tolerance for the court of Minnesota Law if
a lower level conviction or a hung jury is
declared. The Rodney King riots will look tame
by comparison.**

THE GREAT COVID COVERUP

**What a disaster of a trip to Wuhan, China by a
group of WHO "experts". Jamie Metzl, a former**

NSC official in the Clinton Administration and a member of the WHO advisory committee said of the investigative trip, it was no more than, “a highly chaperoned, highly curated study tour.”

Former CDC head, Robert Redfield, has recently opined that the virus emanated from the Wuhan Virology lab, which, by the way, has the largest collection of bat viruses in China, if not the world. It is pointed out that, “there is no evidence of a leak because no data has been allowed to be released to the public.”

The head of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, “isn’t sold on his own organization’s report that COVID- 19 didn’t escape from a lab.”

Your scribe has obtained information from at least ten different sources on this issue and, surprisingly, the most illuminating comes from The NY Post, and not the more technically sophisticated NY Times, as I would have expected.

David Asher, the former leader of the State Department’s task force investigating the

origins of COVID – 19 not only believes the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but also that it was the result of bio-weapons research. Former Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo had concluded that, “China has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments on behalf of the Chinese military since 2017.”

Now get this one – Mr. Asher goes on, “The first cluster of cases occurred among LAB PERSONNEL in the fall of 2019.”

Dr. Steven Quay of the Stanford Medical School concludes, “beyond a reasonable doubt the virus is laboratory derived.” The author of the article, Steven Mosher, goes on, “How is that? It turns out that the coronavirus burrows its way into human cells using a special tool called a ‘furin cleavage site.’ A new scientific report shows that of the 1,000 – one thousand- coronaviruses in nature that most closely resemble the novel coronavirus that caused COVID – 19, not a single one possesses a similar, ‘furin cleavage site.’ This suggests that this tool is not a product of natural evolution, but was inserted – in the Wuhan Lab.”

Mosher goes on, “ China has engaged in a massive coverup these past 15 months, and it has not been alone. Officials at the WHO have consistently downplayed the possibility that it came from the lab.” Quite a story- will we ever absolutely know the truth?

PRESIDENT BIDEN BADLY ADVISED

There is no question that many southern states are tightening up voting requirements that may be viewed as making it harder for minorities to vote. The president has targeted Georgia as one of these states and has lashed out, but, oops! - was given the wrong facts.

The president said, “What I’m worried about is how un-American this whole initiative is. It’s sick deciding that you’re going to end voting at 5PM when working people are just getting off work.”

As Glenn Hessler of the Washington Post wrote, “Not a single expert we consulted who has studied the law understood why Biden made this claim as this was the section of the

law that expanded early voting for many Georgians.” In fact polls can be opened from 7AM to 7PM and if a voter has only just gotten in the line at 7PM, he/she will still be allowed to cast their ballot.

WAPO which has a self confessed love affair with the Biden administration awarded him 4 Pinocchios for this gaff, and the Atlanta Journal- Constitution similarly called him out.

Another controversial part of the new law is that activists are not permitted to provide water and food to people waiting in line – think, “Have this nice bottle of water, you are going to vote for our candidate aren’t you?”

There is no place in the country where I have ever lived (and they are numerous) where there has not been a prohibition against political signage and solicitation within a certain distance of the voting location – in most cases – no closer than 200 feet. Notwithstanding this understandable restriction in Georgia, Poll workers are permitted to provide self- service water.

One other aspect of the law – Absentee voters must provide proof of identity. Tell me how that is an unfair requirement – without it – fraud rules.

The president has been poorly advised on this one, but that hasn't stopped the press from jumping all over Georgia based Delta Airlines and Coca-Cola for not being supportive enough about voter rights. Doubling down, the president has suggested he may recommend that MLB's All Star game be pulled from Georgia because the "working people" can't get to the polls which close at 5PM. No, Mr. president- that's 7AM to 7PM. Mr Hessler at WAPO would be happy to furnish you with further detail.

APRIL IN PARIS –NOT, AND A PUZZLEMENT

In a normal year, many, your scribe and Frau Hermit included, would be looking forward to April in Paris – not this year. President Macron has just announced another nationwide lock down due to Covid- 19 as infections are surging. This is to be at least a four -week shut down. Saddest, of course, for those infected,

but what sadness to contemplate deserted sidewalks along the book stalls of the Seine and the empty café chairs at Les Deux Magots where, at this time of year, throngs are usually having an espresso or beer, people watching in the warm spring sun.

Regrettably, Coronavirus deaths in France are rapidly approaching 100,000 and the highly contagious variant that started in Britain now accounts for two thirds of the infections in France. Europe, in general is going through a terrible resurgence.

About three quarters of Italy's population is barred from going outside except for work, health or other essentials. Germany has also imposed a partial shut down.

We, in the U.S. are feeling better with 100 million having received at least one shot. Let's hope this is not false optimism as new cases have persisted at 50,000 a day, even climbing over 60,000 in several recent days. No telling what unpleasantness is ahead having read that, in Miami Beach, you could neither see

pavement, grass nor sand for the density of the maskless celebrants over spring break.

But, back to France for a moment, a curious article caught my eye this morning. With a population of 67 million, 60% of French citizens classify themselves as Catholics. 15% say they are “practicing Catholics”. 4.5% are going to Mass each week. 1.8% say they go to church daily. Essentially, there are 3.2 million practicing Catholics who attend 45,000 Catholic churches and Cathedrals. 40,000 of those churches are owned by the government, and the tax payers pay for the maintenance. I never knew any of that. Wherever we have gone in France, a visit to the local Catholic churches and Cathedrals has always been special – such incredible architecture and diversity. I just find it a bit sad to learn that those 45,000 churches have an aggregate following of only 3.2 million. In contrast, the article points to 2 million practicing muslims who have only 2,500 mosques, unsupported by the government.

Your faithful scribe, PB

