

**Department of Energy was created in 1977 because of Carter's (D) 1973 oil crisis.** It's goal of reaching energy independence? That's where corn ethanol came from. Five-year study concluded in 2022 that corn ethanol led to at least 24% more emissions than gasoline. In April 2022, Biden extended the higher biofuel blends to offset high gasoline prices. The corn lobby was happy to turn food into cash. Inflating gasoline prices through sloppy monetary policy and oil-stifling regulations and then faux-reducing them with ethanol is as useless as subsidizing corn and calling it "clean energy."

**Bet you can't remember the one time we did have energy independence and actually began exporting oil...while cutting gas prices to historical lows...yep...Trump!**

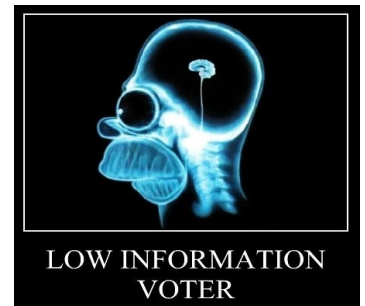
1.13.2024 #417  
*All the news I see fit to print.*  
**Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one.**  
*The majority of government programs seem to have been created by Rube Goldberg. You older folks may remember his cartoons...like the one above designed to "help" with all that government paperwork:*

**How Social Security operates:** employees contribute 6.2% of every paycheck into Social Security until they reach the FICA wage base cap, set at \$168,600 in 2024. Employers must match this contribution, resulting in 12.4% contribution from both. Self-employed individuals pay the full 12.4%. Social security cost of living (COLA) is going up 3.2% in 2024 compared to the 5.2% government employees will receive.

Half of American families pay no federal income tax. That's true...however they DO pay their social security "contribution". Taxing the wealthy is the usual political solution by raising or eliminating the wage base cap of \$168,000.00, adding an additional 6.2% tax on every dollar above this threshold, for both individual and employer.

Franklin Roosevelt, a Democrat, introduced the Social Security (FICA) Program. He made specific promises...and then Democrats broke every one of them. I've included more about this on the next page.

As with all government programs, the politicians rushed in to "help" after the programs were started...with the left and right columns of this issue of the newsletter offering proof of how much "help" we usually get from the government. Of course, politicians are immune from the Social Security rip off since they voted for their own retirement funding.



**Department of Education was created in 1979 by Carter (D).** It's goal of improving education? Maybe the real goal is to hide what's happening so the voters don't catch on. They certainly won't hear about it from the media...they're even lower on the intelligence spectrum given the "journalism" we have today.

**The data:**  
 23 million American adults are functionally illiterate by the tests of everyday reading, writing, and comprehension.

The College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) shows a virtually unbroken decline; verbal scores fell over 50 points and average mathematics scores dropped nearly 40 points.

There are remedial courses in college for basic skills in English they should have learned in High School. **Way to go politicians!**

curmudgeon  
quotes



**Don't get mad  
at lazy people.  
We didn't do anything.  
It's our energy saving mode.**

**I'm not the same person  
I was a year ago.  
I'm worse  
and plan to get worse.**

**You find me offensive?  
Then I suggest  
you quit finding me.**

**Lead me not  
into temptation.  
I know too many ways.**

**If zombies do eat brains,  
there are a lot of very safe  
people out there.**

**Never mistake my silence  
for weakness. Nobody plans  
a murder out loud.**

**Tact is what wimpy people  
use who don't understand  
the power of sarcasm.**

**Have the day you deserve.  
Let karma sort it out.**

**People think I go out of my  
way to piss them off.  
Trust me, it's not  
out of my way at all.**

**My alone time  
is a contribution  
to public safety.**

**Sleeping is like dying but  
without the commitment.**

**Am I smiling  
or baring my teeth?  
Choose wisely.**

**Caffeine, willpower, and  
inappropriate humor gets  
me through every week.  
Oh, and some wine.**



Since many of us have paid into FICA for years and are now receiving a Social Security check every month -- and then finding that we are getting taxed on 85% of the money we paid to the Federal government to "put away," you may be interested in the following:

**Q:** Which Political Party took Social Security from the independent "Trust" fund and put it into the General fund so that Congress could spend it?

**A:** It was Lyndon Johnson and the Democrat controlled House and Senate.

**Q:** Which Political Party eliminated the income tax deduction for Social Security (FICA) withholding?

**A:** The Democratic Party.

**Q:** Which Political Party started taxing Social Security?

**A:** The Democratic Party, with Al Gore casting the "tie-breaking" deciding vote as President of the Senate, while he was Vice President of the U.S.

**Q:** Which Political Party decided to start giving annuity payments to immigrants?

**A:** Jimmy Carter and the Democratic Party. Immigrants moved into this country, and at age 65, began to receive SSI Social Security payments. The Democrats gave these payments to them, though they never paid into it.

Meanwhile, the Republicans drafted strongly worded op-eds...which the Lame Stream Media ignored. Then when the Republicans re-gained power, completely ignored the situation and continued to spend the money from the "trust fund"...which allows the media to blame the Republicans...see how that works?

*Here's a conspiracy theory I haven't seen yet:*

You have to pay into social security for decades but can start getting it back only if you live long enough. Ever figure out how long you would have to live just to get your money back without interest? Then along comes Covid and all those young people dying won't get any of their money back...the government keeps it.

## Tidbits

*(a small and particularly interesting item of gossip or information)*

Convicted ballot harvester, Gloria Torres, has been appointed as the new Vice Mayor of San Luis, AZ. Torres, who was appointed during the regular city council meeting, pled guilty to ballot abuse in June.

Democrats in the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that President Trump's name will not be listed on the Colorado ballot in 2024. The Last Time Democrats Took a GOP Candidate Off the Ballot Was in 1860 – They Would Not Allow Abraham Lincoln's Name on the Ballot in Their Slave States.

Government report reveals the left-wing abortion provider Planned Parenthood received \$1.8 billion in taxpayer funding between the fiscal years 2019 and 2021, of which \$90 million was in small business-designated loans during the Chinese Coronavirus pandemic.

A single wind turbine blade can be more than 200 feet or longer than the wingspan of a Boeing 747. 7,000 blades are scrapped per year in the United States "Without a strategy end-of-life management, so-called green technologies like solar panels, electric vehicle batteries, and windmills will ultimately place the same unintended burdens on our planet and economy as traditional commodities," former EPA administrator (**under President Trump**) Andrew Wheeler said.

*New York state 1.3-gigawatt wind farm in the Atlantic Ocean, dead for "economic circumstances". Bidenomics bites green energy?*

**Until next week...**

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