

Egregious budget deal

"A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking about real money." That's a quote attributed to long-ago U.S. Senator Everett Dirksen (which he probably never said). The quote—real or not—was about the federal budget in the 1960s. Back then a budget deficit of \$5 billion would send people into a tizzy.

Now? The recent agreement between the White House and Congressional leaders will lead to annual deficits of about \$1 trillion. The current national debt stands at \$22 trillion and grows day by day. The new budget agreement, which will remain in place until after the 2020 elections, will add about \$10 trillion to our national debt when all is said and done.

The president, his GOP supporters and the Democrats all get money for pet projects, all forgetting any past declarations about deficits. When both parties agree to such an egregious budget plan, they all get political cover. The Democrats can say they secured money for cherished domestic programs. The Republicans get to say they have money to increase military spending. They will all congratulate themselves on this deal while America's Everyman and Everywoman will, again, bear the brunt. This is a perfect example of our leaders not leading. On top of that, economic experts say

that the recent \$1.5 trillion tax cut did not have the desired affect. Much of that money ended up as executive bonuses and stock buy-back schemes.

Why should this latest budget agreement (which still has to be approved by Congress and signed by the president) matter to the average citizen? There are two very good reasons.

One, it breaks any semblance of trust between citizens and government when their leaders preach one thing and then do the opposite. It's politics as usual.

Two, the bigger our national debt, the bigger the mandated interest payment. That interest payment, itself billions of dollars, takes money away from other areas that needs financing.

Those are good reasons for Americans to be wary of these types of budget deals. On top of that our debt is owned by China and others. What will our leaders say they came knocking on our door looking for payment?

The \$385 billion budget plan gives both parties gifts they can bestow onto their supporters as well as political cover from each other. That's no way to run a country. We are outraged and hope many others are, too, and take the time to let their leaders know how they feel.

—LAZ

our opinion

Banners

As Americans take to the road this summer they will drive through large cities and small towns. Just about every burg they visit will have one thing in common: identifying banners lining the main street.

We have called for banners along River Road for years and now we renew that call.

Banners attached to utility poles along Keizer's main thoroughfare will tell visitors who we are and it will show residents that we mean business when we promote the city.

We envision a series of banners, one for each quarter (that way the shelf life will be much longer when

they hang for only three months a year):

First quarter (February through April)—Springtime in Keizer

Second quarter (May through June)—Iris Capital of the World along with KeizerFEST.

Third quarter (July through September)—Summer in Keizer.

Fourth quarter (October through January)—Holidays in Keizer.

A banner project can be funded with a combination of grants, fundraisers and donations.

Let's make this a banner year in Keizer.

—LAZ

After 69 years, Korean War is not over

To the Editor:

The Korean War (Not a declared war; only Congress can declare war) began 25 June 1950 and the ceasefire occurred 27 July 1953 at 10 p.m. (2200 hours).

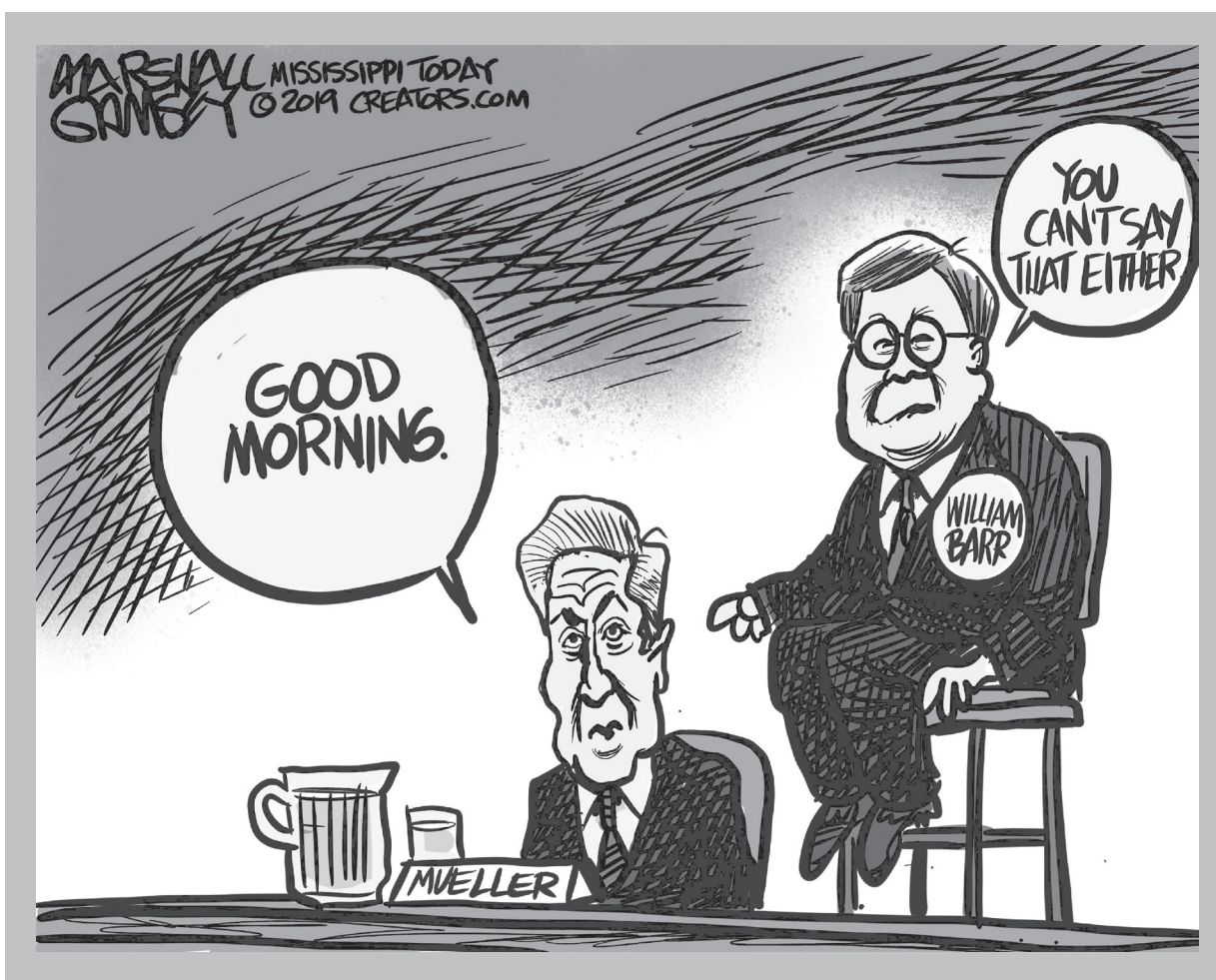
During the 37 months of combat more than 37,000 Americans were killed. This equates to about the population of the city of Keizer. Something to think about, isn't it? In addition there were 103,284 wounded, 8,177 missing in action. And the

letters

final Truce Documents have not been finalized. The North Korea and South Korea militaries still look at each other across the 38th parallel. This war is now 69 years old.

The term "Freedom is not Free" is a true statement. Yes, I was there and on the "hill" the night of 27 July 1953 and was privileged to view the ceasefire flares as they opened signifying the end of firing of all weapons on both sides.

Bob Wickman
Keizer



Trump's unnecessary roughness

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

The most revealing moment of last week's Greenville, North Carolina, Trump rally was not when the crowd chanted "Send her back" in support of President Donald Trump's criticism of Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., a Somali-born immigrant who frequently calls Trump a racist and whom Trump argues hates America.

Trump later told reporters he "felt a little badly about" the chant and "would certainly try" to stop supporters from repeating the refrain at future rallies—which I take as recognition that his go-back rhetoric against Omar and three female American-born House Democrats could endanger his re-election campaign.

Later Trump recalled running into a successful businessman who "cannot stand me." Trump told the rally that he said to the man: "I never have liked you, and you have never liked me. But you're going to support me because you're a rich guy."

Trump added: "But it's not like he has a choice. He has no choice. And on top of that, it's a good choice because we've done the right thing."

It was a stark admission that Trump enjoyed holding mainstream Republicans hostage because 2020 Democratic hopefuls are so far to the left that conservatives who don't like his Twitter rants have nowhere to go. A friend calls Trump's latest Twitter campaign "torturing the moderates." And she voted for Trump.

This latest Trump melodrama began Sunday when Trump tweeted that the four progressive Dems known as "the squad"—Omar, Reps. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts—should "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime-infested

places from which they came."

The reaction of many Republicans was a prolonged cringe. Not because they demand political correctness but because they are aware how the go-back rhetoric is likely to alienate some of the very Latino and women voters the campaign has been courting. It didn't help that three members of the squad are native-born Americans who are also women of color.

Democrats and never-Trumper scolds could not get on Twitter fast enough to denounce as unprincipled and cowardly any Republicans who did not turn completely against Trump for his race-baiting rhetoric.

A number of conservatives did voice their disapproval on social media and through back channels. But they aren't going to defect; they support what Trump does even as they abhor what he says.

They love his judicial picks, agree with him on border security and benefit from the strong economy. They believe that if a Democrat takes the White House, he or she will pack the courts with activist judges who will legislate from the bench, neuter or eliminate Immigration and Customs Enforcement and push soak-the-rich taxes likely to fell a strong economy.

Besides, the right believes the left pays too much attention to words and bestows too little attention on results. It doesn't say much for Trump that he repeatedly and unnecessarily forces the very people he needs to get things done to bite their tongues because he cannot control his. And Wednesday night, he pretty much admitted he likes it that way.

The Trump amen chorus predictably dismissed all criticism of the "send her back" chant as Trump-hater folly. There's a big hole in that argu-

ment: Trump threw the chanters under the bus. He knew it was election poison, so how could it be wrong for others to say it was toxic?

Last Friday, Trump walked back his walk-back as he told reporters the Greenville attendees were "incredible patriots" and that he was incensed at Omar's anti-Semitism.

Trump's right about Omar. She has tweeted that support for Israel was "all about the Benjamins" and questioned pro-Israel officeholders for their "allegiance to a foreign country." She so enraged House Democrats that they voted on a resolution to censure anti-Semitism, a measure they then watered down as a resolution against "hateful expressions of intolerance" to mollify the squad.

Tuesday, she introduced a resolution "affirming that all Americans have the right to participate in boycotts in pursuit of civil and human rights at home and abroad" — an apparent gesture of support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel.

But rather than simply confront her on the issues, where she is vulnerable, Trump the bully chose to make it personal. And so America spent another week arguing about his unnecessary roughness.

There was an apparent strategy behind Trump's go-back tweet. Team Trump is focused on turning out Trump's 2016 voters who skipped the midterm elections, GOP organizers believe, because Trump's name was not on the ticket.

For that rump, Trump has put reliable GOP voters through an agonizing slog. They've been put on the spot routinely while they have been taken for granted because they are committed Republicans. But it's getting old, and it's time for Team Trump to wonder: What if they're the voters who decide to stay home?

(Creators Syndicate)

US to become majority minority soon

The Declaration of Independence held the signatures of 54 courageous colonists, representing all thirteen colonies. They completed their work and presented it July 4, 1776. Among its new order pronouncements, it recognized that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Jewish-American Emma Lazarus wrote "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Ms. Lazarus was 38-years-old when she died of cancer in 1887, 15 years before her poem was placed on a plaque at the Statue of Liberty's base. Lady Liberty's message has been a beacon to the world ever since.

Use of the Declaration and Lazarus' poetry reminds all here that our forebears had the courage and fortitude to strike out from the Old World to the United States of America to seek out a country where freedom, liberty and the opportunity to pursue happiness were written into

lawfully honored documents, promising everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, culture and origin, the chance to live an American Dream. My maternal grandparents came to the U.S. from Finland in the 1880s, my paternal relatives from Scotland in the 1850s. I never knew them because they passed from life before my birth; nevertheless, I venerate honor them for what they did for me and believe my sentiments are shared by virtually all of my fellow Americans.

One of the serious obstacles for a secure life in the U.S. has been for persons of race and skin color. At its heart have been barriers, barbs and bias. Fact is the U.S. will soon have no clear racial or ethnic majority while some states have already crossed that threshold with more to get there in the immediate future. Major contributors to the number of arrivals will come from the Latin and Asian countries, known to grow more quickly than non-Hispanic white populations.

The facts also show that persons of color already constitute the majority in California, Texas, Hawaii, and New Mexico. In nine others, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey and New York, persons of color make up more than 40 percent

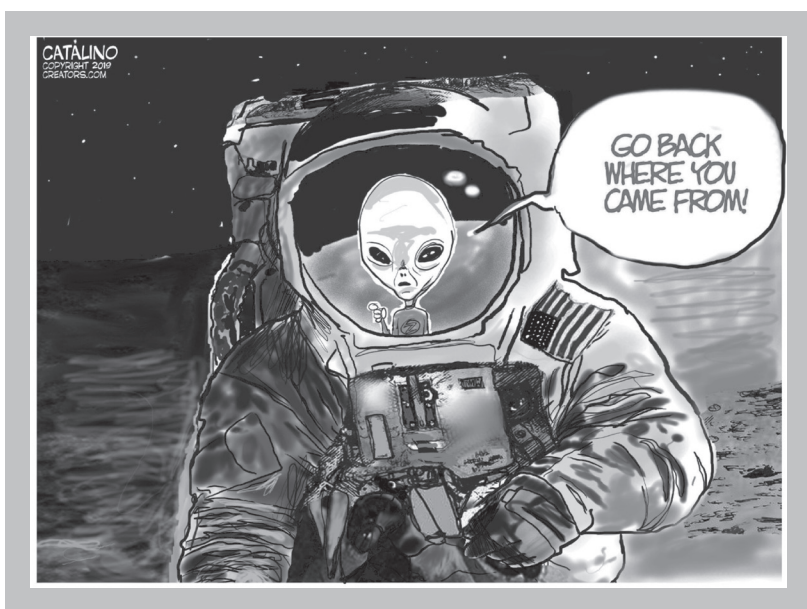
of statewide populations. There will be no clear racial or ethnic majority in 25 years as whites will count at 49 percent, Latinos at 25, African-Americans at 13, and Asians at 8 percent. Four percent will identify as multi-racial. 2050 projections promise 100 million Latinos and 42 million Asians.

It is suggested that those of us who choose to act out through prejudicial violence and hateful demagoguery may wish to make attitude adjustments regarding others of color.

Prospective agents of change should also consider behavior adjustments for the sake of their children. When parents stop practicing and preaching adversarial ideas through antagonistic expressions, hate has a chance of drying up and blowing away. Just telling people of color to "go back home," when they're already bona fide citizens on the verge of majority status, fits only an American future without peace and a nation divided against itself.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion regularly in the *Keizertimes*.)

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