

307: Cost of Bernie Sander's Medicare for All, Death Penalty, Torture

Chris Spangle and Harry Price break down the cost of Bernie Sander's Medicare for All and fact check if the Koch Brother's proved \$2 Trillion in savings, cover a man that died a gruesome death from an execution in Tennessee, Gina Haspel's torture memos get released, and we debut Undercovered News.

WAL News Episode 307 Outline

Intro - 5 min 00:00:00

Segment 1: Main Headline Block - 00:09:52

Segment devoted to the biggest news story of the day.

Bernie Sanders and Socialized Medicine

Sanders introduced Medicare for All in Sept of 2017. The bill, which has 16 Democratic cosponsors, would expand Medicare into a universal health insurance program, phased in over four years

Sanders claims that a family making \$50,000 pays \$6,273 no. Under his plan they would pay \$466. It will offer comprehensive coverage for all Americans.

"It will cover the entire continuum of health care, from inpatient to outpatient care; preventive to emergency care; primary care to specialty care, including long-term and palliative care; vision, hearing and oral health care; mental health and substance abuse services; as well as prescription medications, medical equipment, supplies, diagnostics and treatments. Patients will be able to choose a health care provider without worrying about whether that provider is in-network and will be able to get the care they need without having to read any fine print or trying to figure out how they can afford the out-of-pocket costs." - Medicare for All Plan - <https://berniesanders.com/medicareforall/>

- Bernie's plan will cost over \$6 trillion less than the current health care system over the next ten years.
- The United States currently spends \$3 trillion on health care each year—nearly \$10,000 per person.
- The typical middle class family would save over \$5,000 under this plan.
- Last year, the average working family paid \$4,955 in premiums and \$1,318 in deductibles to private health insurance companies. Under this plan, a family

of four earning \$50,000 would pay just \$466 per year to the single-payer program, amounting to a savings of over \$5,800 for that family each year.

- Businesses would save over \$9,400 a year in health care costs for the average employee.
- The average annual cost to the employer for a worker with a family who makes \$50,000 a year would go from \$12,591 to just \$3,100.
- This plan has been estimated to cost \$1.38 trillion per year.

How will he pay for it:

- A 6.2 percent income-based health care premium paid by employers. - Revenue raised: \$630 billion per year.
- A 2.2 percent income-based premium paid by households. - Revenue raised: \$210 billion per year.
- New Tax Rates - Revenue raised: \$110 billion a year
- 37 percent on income between \$250,000 and \$500,000.
- 43 percent on income between \$500,000 and \$2 million.
- 48 percent on income between \$2 million and \$10 million. (In 2013, only 113,000 households, the top 0.08 percent of taxpayers, had income between \$2 million and \$10 million.)
- 52 percent on income above \$10 million. (In 2013, only 13,000 households, just 0.01 percent of taxpayers, had income exceeding \$10 million.)
- Taxing capital gains and dividends the same as income from work. - Revenue raised: \$92 billion per year.
- Limit tax deductions for rich. - Revenue raised: \$15 billion per year
- The Responsible Estate Tax. - Revenue raised: \$21 billion per year.
- Savings from health tax expenditures. - Revenue raised: \$310 billion per year by deleting current tax breaks.

So Why are we talking about it now?

Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez mentioned it on Aug 8 with Chris Cuomo as well.

Democrats seize on cherry-picked claim that 'Medicare-for-all' would save \$2 trillion - https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/08/07/democrats-seize-on-cherry-picked-claim-that-medicare-for-all-will-save-2-trillion/?utm_term=.b21af245ae20

“On July 30, the Mercatus Center at George Mason University released a working paper on the 10-year fiscal impact of the Medicare-for-all plan sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), which would transition everyone in the United States from a mostly employer-provided health system to Medicare over

four years. The report was written by Charles Blahous, a former economic adviser to George W. Bush and a public trustee for Social Security and Medicare from 2010 through 2015.”

Play clip from Young Turks.

Bernie Sanders Thanks The Koch Brothers For Proving His Point - <https://youtu.be/GDIZIJ7tXu0>

Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez mentioned it on Aug 8 with Chris Cuomo as well.

So what does the paper say?

Abstract from the paper:

The leading current bill to establish single-payer health insurance, the Medicare for All Act (M4A), would, under conservative estimates, increase federal budget commitments by approximately \$32.6 trillion during its first 10 years of full implementation (2022–2031), assuming enactment in 2018. This projected increase in federal healthcare commitments would equal approximately 10.7 percent of GDP in 2022, rising to nearly 12.7 percent of GDP in 2031 and further thereafter. Doubling all currently projected federal individual and corporate income tax collections would be insufficient to finance the added federal costs of the plan. It is likely that the actual cost of M4A would be substantially greater than these estimates, which assume significant administrative and drug cost savings under the plan, and also assume that healthcare providers operating under M4A will be reimbursed at rates more than 40 percent lower than those currently paid by private health insurance.

The Costs of a National Single-Payer Healthcare System - <https://www.mercatus.org/publications/federal-fiscal-policy/costs-national-single-payer-healthcare-system>

So where does the left get the \$2 Trillion in savings number?

From FactCheck.org's The Cost of 'Medicare-for-All' - <https://www.factcheck.org/2018/08/the-cost-of-medicare-for-all/>

"But Sanders' spokesman, Josh Miller-Lewis, told us that presenting only the additional governmental cost of Medicare-for-all — “the scary \$32 trillion figure” — leaves out the larger context. Of course the government would spend more

on health care under a Medicare-for-all system, he said, but the idea is that it would result in less spending on healthcare in the U.S. overall.

Miller-Lewis referred to figures not highlighted in the report that show that between 2022 and 2031, the currently projected cost of health care expenditures in the U.S. of \$59.4 trillion would dip to \$57.6 trillion under the “Medicare-for-all” plan. That’s how Sanders arrives at his claim that the study “shows that Medicare for All would save the American people \$2 trillion over a 10 year period.” (See Table 2.)"

In an email to FactCheck.org, Blahous said he didn’t highlight that figure because he doesn’t think it’s realistic.

As Blahous wrote in the fourth sentence of his abstract, “It is likely that the actual cost of M4A would be substantially greater than these estimates, which assume significant administrative and drug cost savings under the plan, and also assume that health care providers operating under M4A will be reimbursed at rates more than 40 percent lower than those currently paid by private health insurance.”

“To argue that we can get to that level of savings by getting rid of the health insurance middleman is inconsistent with my study,” Blahous said. “To lend credibility to the \$2 trillion savings number specifically, one would have to argue that we can make those 40 percent cuts to providers at the same time as increasing demand by about 11 percent, without triggering disruptions of access to care that lawmakers and the public find unacceptable.”

Increased demand, lowered supply equals less services and higher prices.

Play AEI Video - Medicare for all doesn't make sense | IN 60 SECONDS - <https://youtu.be/NOs0Hmcq2jk> “Bernie Sanders' single-payer health care proposal won't work. AEI's Jim Pethokoukis explains why.”

For this wondering, about the Koch connection: "The Koch brothers have donated millions of dollars to George Mason University’s Mercatus Center, and Charles Koch sits on the center’s board of directors. Blahous told us his work is not influenced by any donors to the Mercatus Center."

One other common thing heard on Facebook: : "We need to join the rest of the industrialized world. We are the only major country on Earth that doesn’t guarantee health care to all people as a right."

Sanders office claims his standard for major nations is the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. It does not include Russia or China. Those are major. It does include Mexico, which does not have universal health care.

Why is this relevant to us? Bernie Sanders wants to massively raise our taxes to fund a plan that will not work.

Ad or Promo Stop 1: Patreon - 00:49:00

Short break for ad or promo. Music bed underneath.

This segment was brought to you by our Patreon subscribers!

Segment 2: Policy or Politics Block - 00:51:38

Segment designed to cover a lesser covered policy or political story in the news.

Tennessee executes Billy Ray Irick with drug that inflicts “torturous pain.”

Who was Billy Ray Irick?

The Independent - Tennessee executes child killer Billy Ray Irick with drug that inflicts 'torturous pain' - <https://www.yahoo.com/news/tennessee-executes-child-killer-billy-084643846.html>

“Tennessee has carried out its first execution in nearly a decade using a controversial cocktail of drugs including a lethal ingredient described by the Supreme Court as “chemically burning at the stake”.

Billy Ray Irick, an inmate convicted of the 1985 rape and murder of seven-year-old Paula Dyer, received a three-drug injection on Thursday night after the US Supreme Court denied a final request to stay his execution.

The lethal injection consisted of midazolam, used as sedative during an execution, a muscle-relaxer called vecuronium bromide, and compounded potassium chloride, the agent that stops the heart.”

32 years on death row.

Central Question: Should someone be executed despite mental illness:

Irick had a long history of mental illness:

Nashville Scene - Is Billy Ray Irick Fit for Execution? - <https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/features/article/20990901/is-billy-ray-irick-fit-for-execution>

"Billy Ray Irick was just 6 years old the first time someone raised questions about his mental health. It was March 1965, when he was in the first grade. His school's principal referred him to the Knoxville Mental Health Center, requesting a mental evaluation to determine, according to court documents, "whether Billy's extreme behavioral problems and unmanageability in school were the result of emotional problems or whether Billy suffered from some form of 'organic brain damage.' "

A clinical social worker at the center performed an assessment, noting that the young boy "apparently mistreats animals" and that he had "for a couple of years been telling people outside the home that his mother mistreats him, that she ties him up with a rope and beats him." Later, a psychologist at the center who interviewed Irick concluded that he was most likely "suffering from a severe neurotic anxiety reaction with a possibility of mild organic brain damage." The young boy, the psychologist noted, tended "to fear his own impulses."

Nearly seven years after those evaluations, a then-13-year-old Irick was living at the Church of God Home for Children in Sevierville, Tenn. — a former orphanage that provided care for abused and emotionally disturbed children. His parents, whose mental and emotional stability had also been questioned, rarely visited him between the ages of 8 and 13. But in June 1972, according to testimony included in court documents, the facility arranged for Irick to visit his parents at home.

According to court documents, the visit did not go well: "During the visit, Billy used an axe to destroy the family television set, clubbed flowers in the flower bed, and, in a very disturbing incident, used a razor to cut up the pajamas that his younger sister was wearing as she slept. The razor was later found in his sister's bed."

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In the 1986 case of *Ford v. Wainwright*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that executing an "insane" inmate runs afoul of the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. How to determine whether a condemned inmate is insane, however, was left a mostly open question. Writing on *Ford v. Wainwright*, Justice Lewis F. Powell opined that it would be unconstitutional to execute an inmate who is "unaware of the punishment they are about to suffer

and why they are to suffer it,” and that is the standard that has been used in many lower courts.

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Two more psychologists reviewed the affidavits and other records related to Irick’s mental health and concluded that he “suffered at the very least from a dissociative disorder, and probably was schizophrenic or intermittently psychotic.”

In a brief filed in 2010, Irick’s attorneys argued that he “was experiencing a psychotic episode with hallucinations and/or delusions and that he has no memory of the offenses themselves or his role in them.” Further, they contended that Irick did not, and could not, “have a rational understanding of his pending execution because he has no memory of the offenses, does not believe that he committed them, and has the emotional and social functioning of a child.”

Their efforts were blocked on procedural grounds, and the state Supreme Court affirmed the trial court’s judgment that Irick was “competent to be executed.”

How did he die?

Nashville Scene, The Execution of Billy Ray Irick - <https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/pith-in-the-wind/article/21017550/the-execution-of-billy-ray-irick>

“Soon Irick’s eyes closed, and he began to snore. Around seven minutes later came the consciousness check.

“Billy!”

“Billy!”

According to the theory of this constantly litigated process, this check is in place for prison officials to make sure that the condemned inmate is unconscious and supposedly spared the torture that would otherwise come next. But around two minutes later, Irick did appear to react physically to the second drug.

He jolted and produced what sounded like a cough or a choking noise. He moved his head slightly and appeared to briefly strain his forearms against the restraints. In a statement following the execution, Federal Public Defender Kelley Henry said those were signs of the kind of trouble warned about in a lawsuit filed by more than 30 death row prisoners, including Irick.

“This means that the second and third drugs were administered even though Mr. Irick was not unconscious,” she wrote. “The descriptions also raise troubling questions about the State’s attempt to mask the signs of consciousness including by taping down his hands which would have prevented the witnesses from observing the failure of the midazolam.”

Around 7:37 p.m., the color in Irick’s face changed to almost purple. After that, we watched for nearly 10 minutes as he lay there. He did not appear to be breathing any longer.

I saw Tennessee’s death penalty in practice last night, and watched as state officials killed a man in my name and in yours. They strapped him to a gurney and injected him with drugs we have every reason to believe cause unimaginable pain. There appeared to be signs that he did feel something, but only briefly. Once the second drug, a paralytic, took effect, he was unable to move regardless.

Did the state of Tennessee torture a man to death Thursday night? I was in the room, and I suppose I couldn’t say for sure.

Hodey Johns - "You covered the death penalty in 305. You spoke to the element of trust in the government carrying out such a procedure. This now seems to also cast doubt on the government's ability to execute such a procedure."

What is your definition of cruel and unusual punishment?

Midazolam, the sedative in Tennessee’s execution cocktail, doesn’t always render complete unconsciousness. It’s possible for the inmate to feel the effects of the next two drugs, and what he feels is akin to being suffocated and burned alive at the same time.

“Although the Midazolam may temporarily render Irick unconscious, the onset of pain and suffocation will rouse him. And it may do so just as the paralysis sets in, too late for him to alert bystanders that his execution has gone horribly (if predictably) wrong,” wrote Sotomayor.

“In refusing to grant Irick a stay, the Court today turns a blind eye to a proven likelihood that the State of Tennessee is on the verge of inflicting several minutes of torturous pain on an inmate in its custody,” Sotomayor wrote. “. . . If the law permits this execution to go forward in spite of the horrific final minutes that Irick may well experience, then we have stopped being a civilized nation and accepted barbarism.”

From Constitution Center, <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendments/amendment-viii/against-cruel-innovation-the-original-meaning-of-the-cruel-and-unusual-puni/clause/10>

Chief Justice Earl Warren once famously wrote that the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause should “draw its meaning from the evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society.” *Trop v. Dulles* (1958).

Justices Scalia and Thomas argue that the four questions raised above should be answered as follows:

- (1) The standards of cruelty that prevailed in 1791, the year the Eighth Amendment was adopted, provide the appropriate benchmark for determining whether a punishment is cruel and unusual. If a punishment was acceptable in 1791, it must be acceptable today.
- (2) The Clause prohibits only barbaric methods of punishment, not disproportionate punishments. A life sentence for a parking violation, for example, would not violate the Constitution.
- (3) The Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause does not prohibit the death penalty, because capital punishment was permissible in 1791, and because the text of the Constitution mentions the death penalty. Specifically, the Fifth Amendment commands that “No person shall be held to answer for a capital . . . crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury . . . nor be deprived of life . . . without due process of law.” If the death penalty were unconstitutional, they argue, it would not be mentioned in the Constitution.
- (4) Modern methods of punishment may violate the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause only if they are deliberately designed to inflict pain for pain’s sake, and are objectively harsher than punishments permissible in 1791. Since flogging, branding, and various forms of bodily mutilation were permissible in the Eighteenth Century, few modern forms of punishment are likely to fall into this category.

(1) The appropriate benchmark for determining whether a punishment is cruel and unusual is neither the subjective feelings of the current Supreme Court nor the outdated standards of 1791. Rather, the benchmark is longstanding prior practice. If a given punishment has been continuously used for a very long time, this is powerful evidence that multiple generations of Americans have considered it reasonable and just. This does not mean that any punishment that was once part of our tradition can still be used today. If a once-traditional punishment falls out of usage for several generations, it becomes unusual. If a legislature then tries to reintroduce it, courts should compare how harsh it is relative to those punishment practices that are still part of our tradition.

(2) The Clause prohibits disproportionate punishments as well as barbaric methods of punishment. If a punishment is significantly harsher than punishments traditionally given for the same or similar crimes, it is cruel and unusual, even though the same punishment might be acceptable for other crimes. For example, it would be cruel and unusual to impose a life sentence for a parking violation, but not for murder.

(3) The death penalty is currently constitutional because it is a traditional punishment that has never fallen out of usage. If it fell out of usage for multiple generations, however, it might become cruel and unusual. This has already occurred with respect to some once-traditional applications of the death penalty. It is no longer constitutional to execute a person for theft, for example, because this punishment fell out of usage for this crime a long time ago, and the punishments that have replaced it are far less severe.

(4) Some new punishment practices, such as lethal injection or long-term solitary confinement, appear to pose a risk of excessive physical or mental pain. If a court were to find that their effect is significantly harsher than the longstanding punishment practices they have replaced, it could appropriately find them cruel and unusual.

Why does this matter?

- As Libertarians, we are skeptical of the ability of every level of government's ability to administer their own rules correctly. Rule of law.
- Anyone innocent person or tortured inmate is the result of voters and taxpayers allowing murder to take place. We are morally complicit.
- Would you personally torture or murder someone, even if they've committed a heinous act?
- Secondly, libertarianism at its core is about empathy. I want to give the worst amongst us the longest amount of time possible to repent and change their ways.
- Thirdly, we need to design our system as if we are the ones accused.

Ad or Promo Stop 2: WAL Store - 01:24:16

Short break for ad or promo. Music bed underneath.

Segment 3: Path To Libertarianism (Philosophy Block) - 01:25:34

Segment designed to discuss a portion of the libertarian philosophy.

Current CIA Director Gina Haspel was running a secret black site in 2002 within Thailand. Her cables were declassified (three months too late)

outlining new details of torture perpetrated by the CIA and Americans during the War on Terror.

Torture of terror suspect at CIA black site operated by current director Gina Haspel detailed in newly declassified cables - <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/cia-torture-terrorists-gina-haspel-declassified-cables-director-national-security-archive-foia-a8487001.html>

The cables dating from 2002 detail actions taken against suspect Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who in one interrogation, according to the documents, had his clothes ripped from him as he “whimpered that he would do anything his interrogators required”. He was told if he did not cooperate, he would suffer “in ways he never thought possible”.

“Interrogation escalated rapidly from subject being aggressively debriefed by interrogators while standing at the walling wall, to multiple applications of the walling technique, and ultimately, multiple applications of the watering technique,” reads one document, referring to the use of waterboarding.

Another document refers to how Ms al-Nashiri crawled into “the small box”, in which he was confined, after the torture session was completed. The questioners told the prisoner they did not believe he was telling the truth and threatened more action if he did not cooperate, though it appears they eventually concluded he was not withholding information.

It was confirmed she was in charge of the site, and suspected of writing cables.

The archive said one outstanding question was whether Ms Haspel wrote Cable 11359, from December 1 2002, which used remarkably vivid language to describe the torture sessions.

“[The interrogators] strode, catlike, into the well-lit confines of the cell at 0902 hrs [redacted], deftly removed the subject’s black hood with a swipe, paused, and in a deep, measured voice said that subject – having ‘calmed down’ after his (staged) run-in with his hulking, heavily muscled guards the previous day – should reveal what subject had done to vex his guards to the point of rage,” it read.

Mr al-Nashiri, a Saudi citizen, is believed by US intelligence officials to be behind the 2000 bombing attack on the USS Cole that killed 17 US sailors and injured dozens more. He has denied this.

He was seized in 2002 and held for four years on various secret CIA prisons in Afghanistan, Thailand, Poland, Morocco, and Romania.

He was transferred to the US military-run prison at Guantanamo Bay in 2006 where he was eventually brought before the Guantanamo Military Commission and charged with plotting the attack on the USS Cole. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walling>

Walling is a method of torture used by the CIA in which a person's neck is encircled by a collar, and the collar then used to slam the person against a wall. According to information gathered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from six detainees, "walling" meant "beating by use of a collar", in at least one instance against a concrete wall.

Waterboarding is a war crime under both U.S. and international law, dating back to U.S. prosecution of Japanese soldiers for torturing U.S. POWs during World War II.

Central Question: If you support torture, what is your line?

More questions:

At what age must a victim be before torture becomes acceptable?

Are family members of targeted people also fair game?

Will resulting information be useful or utterly unreliable?

Abu Ghraib

Counter Punch, A Brief History of American Torture - <https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/05/08/a-brief-history-of-american-torture/>

"The most notorious of these torture prisons was Abu Ghraib near Baghdad, Iraq, where prolonged vicious beatings, sexual humiliation and death threats were common, and where men, at least one boy and, allegedly, numerous women were raped by their jailers. As one former guard there quipped, "you can't spell abuse without Abu."

Abu Ghraib detainees were forced to sleep in flooded cells without mattresses, stripped naked and forced to crawl and bark like dogs, attacked with dogs, forced to curse Islam and eat pork and food from dirty toilets. Old women were dragged around by their hair, ridden like donkeys and urinated on by soldiers

like Sgt. Charles Graner, who was fond of sodomizing innocent detainees with found objects."

"The Christian in me says it's wrong," Graner said of torturing prisoners. "But the corrections officer in me says, 'I love making a grown man piss himself.'"

Experimentation

We paid two psychologists \$80M to run these black sites.

The Nation, The CIA Didn't Just Torture, It Experimented on Human Beings - <https://www.thenation.com/article/cia-didnt-just-torture-it-experimented-human-beings/>

The road from abstract hypotheticals to the authorized use of waterboarding and confinement boxes runs straight into the terrain of human experimentation. On April 15, 2002, Mitchell and Jessen arrived at a black site in Thailand to supervise the interrogation of Abu Zubaydah, the first "high-value detainee" captured by the CIA. By July, Mitchell proposed more coercive techniques to CIA headquarters, and many of these were approved in late July. From then until the program was dry-docked in 2008, at least thirty-eight people were subjected to psychological and physical torments, and the results were methodically documented and analyzed. That is the textbook definition of human experimentation.

What are libertarian views on torture? The Moral Argument

FEE, Libertarianism and Torture, Wendy McElory - <https://fee.org/articles/libertarianism-and-torture/>

Libertarianism declares that no moral or practical consideration outweighs the right of a peaceful individual to use his own body and property. When rights are breached, the accused is entitled to due process before remedies can be justly imposed, and those remedies must be proportional to the violation.

Ultimately, however, I oppose torture not because I am libertarian, but because I am a human being. Torture destroys everyone and everything decent it touches, including the torturer's humanity.

The Effectiveness Argument

Scientific American, We've Known for 400 Years That Torture Doesn't Work, Michael Schermer <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/we-rsquo-ve-known-for-400-years-that-torture-doesn-rsquo-t-work/>

In contrast, a 2014 study in the journal Applied Cognitive Psychology entitled "The Who, What, and Why of Human Intelligence Gathering" surveyed 152 interrogators and found that "rapport and relationship-building techniques were employed most often and perceived as the most effective regardless of context and intended outcome, particularly in comparison to confrontational techniques." Another 2014 study in the same journal—"Interviewing High Value Detainees"—sampled 64 practitioners and detainees and found that "detainees were more likely to disclose meaningful information ... and earlier in the interview when rapport-building techniques were used."

Finally, an exhaustive 2014 report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence analyzed millions of internal CIA documents related to the torture of terrorism suspects, concluding that "the CIA's use of its enhanced interrogation techniques was not an effective means of acquiring intelligence or gaining cooperation from detainees." It adds that "multiple CIA detainees fabricated information, resulting in faulty intelligence."

Natural Rights Argument

America was founded on Lockean principles of protecting life, liberty, and property. Concepts like rule of law (CTC Legal letter for CIA on torture statutes) are important, as is opposing tyranny. In 1689, he wrote in the Second Treatise of Government that people are born with certain "inalienable" natural rights.

Constitutional Rights Foundation, The Declaration of Independence and Natural Rights - <http://www.crf-usa.org/foundations-of-our-constitution/natural-rights.html>

Rights that are God-given and can never be taken or even given away. Among these fundamental natural rights, Locke said, are "life, liberty, and property." Locke believed that the most basic human law of nature is the preservation of mankind. To serve that purpose, he reasoned, individuals have both a right and a duty to preserve their own lives. Murderers, however, forfeit their right to life since they act outside the law of reason. Locke also argued that individuals should be free to make choices about how to conduct their own lives as long as they do not interfere with the liberty of others. Locke therefore believed liberty should be far-reaching.

"All Men Are Created Equal"

Ad or Promo Stop 3: Amazon Link - 01:50:40

Short break for ad or promo. Music bed underneath.

Uncovered News - 01:52:09

Segment devoted to minor headlines.

Gary Johnson launches New Mexico Senate bid

<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/401816-gary-johnson-launches-senate-bid>

Play ad

Former Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson announced on Tuesday that he's launching a Senate campaign in New Mexico.

Johnson's consultant Ron Nielson said in late July that the former governor was "strongly considering" a Senate bid if the Libertarian Party's current candidate, Aubrey Dunn, dropped out. Dunn officially exited the race on July 30.

Johnson is vying to unseat Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), who is seeking reelection for a second term. Heinrich is facing Republican Mick Rich, though the New Mexico Democrat is expected to hold the seat.

Clinton won New Mexico by 8 points in the 2016 election. The Cook Political Report, a top nonpartisan election handicapper, has the race rated as solidly Democratic.

Johnson is seen as a long-shot, though he won more than 9 percent of the vote in New Mexico during his 2016 presidential run. Johnson's candidacy could end up siphoning away support from the Republican candidate.

Mike Tront - "You discuss the Saudi coalition bombing of the school bus in Yemen that killed 50. It's barely covered in the press and when it is talked about, the fact that the US is heavily involved with the coalition doesn't seem to get a mention."

Dozens killed, including children on a bus, in Yemen air strikes

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security/dozens-killed-including-children-on-a-bus-in-yemen-air-strikes-idUSKBN1KU12U>

Saudi-led coalition air strikes on Thursday killed dozens of people, including children traveling on a bus through a market, in Yemen's Saada province, a Yemeni health official and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

The Western-backed alliance fighting the Iranian-aligned Houthi group in Yemen said in a statement that the air strikes targeted missile launchers used to attack the southern Saudi city of Jizan on Wednesday, killing a Yemeni civilian there.

According to a Yemeni journalist on Twitter, an American-made Raytheon Mark 82 general-purpose free-fall bomb was used as the weapon of choice in the attack. <https://twitter.com/narrabyee/status/1028194549166952450>

The West could be closer to China's system of 'social credit scoring' than you think

<http://thehill.com/opinion/technology/386524-the-west-could-be-closer-to-chinas-system-of-social-credit-scoring-than>

China has become the largest surveillance state on the planet. Taking a page out of the Netflix show Black Mirror, the People's Republic of China has begun assigning scores that dictate its citizens' ability to travel, their social mobility, educational opportunities, and where they can live. The totalitarian 1984 of the future is now 2018 China.

First, online behavior is subject to intense scrutiny. Online speech that "denigrates" others results in score deductions while tattling on fellow citizens can increase scores. Getting blacklisted means Internet usage limitations, public humiliation, or a complete internet ban.

Second, banking and social media information are collected, stored, and evaluated. Even before scoring, speech in China was highly policed; the difference now is that "bad" speech carries significant consequences.

The freedom to travel will also be highly regulated. Last Tuesday, CBS New York reported that journalist, Liu Hu, is currently unable to fly for failure to sincerely apologize for some of his tweets. The social credit system integrates freedom to use "public roads, railways, waterways, aviation, channels and other such transportation markets" with the other assessment standards to create a holistic "trust-breaking record." High credit score individuals will be rewarded with

preferential travel treatment within and out of China. Imagine your low Uber rating means you can no longer take any public transportation.

China collects and calculates scores with the help of large data collection firms downloading on the Chinese people. Wired reports the Chinese government conscripted the assistance from China's Uber equivalent, along with finance companies and others, to create the infrastructure for mass data collection and score algorithms to monitor nearly every aspect of modern life.

Fans Outraged Gay Actress Ruby Rose Isn't Gay Enough to Play Batwoman

<http://reason.com/blog/2018/08/13/batwoman-ruby-rose-disney-lesbian-gay>

The CW fared little better in casting Ruby Rose to portray Kate Kane in its upcoming Batwoman show. The character is a Jewish lesbian; Rose is gender fluid and part of the LGBT community, but not Jewish, which isn't good enough for those who think the actor must check off all the same boxes as the character. Rose was attacked on social media and quit Twitter over the weekend.

We Are Libertarians Mailbag - 02:11:14

Re-introduce. Segment answering a listener question.

Grant Hendley

I tried to boil down things we see in media and what the government sells us and I think I found a common thread between most stories. I have been watching the news lately from the right and left and the common theme seems to me to be; fear, safety and security are in jeopardy, outrage, willful blindness of inconsistency, and dehumanization or lack of empathy. I would say close to 80 percent of stories I saw the news pushing had one or more of these themes.

All of the above mentioned themes of the news cycle and government policy reflect these tendencies, which don't require much thought to understand the scope of the argument that one side is pushing. Nuance has no place in this day and age for the average person. You go to the sites you trust because they reinforce your beliefs and you don't have to go through with the death of your ego in light of new information.

Honestly this may sound kinda dumb and far-fetched but I heard a podcast with a psychiatrist who looked objectively at where the culture was going and said that the reason we are heading this way was the de-ification of self-esteem and happiness over reason and purpose.

Final Thoughts From Cohosts - 02:17:05 (Brian), 02:24:21 (Final Thoughts)

Open floor for cohosts. Plugs.

Corrections, Thank Yous and Promos - 5 Min

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Hodey Johns:

"My biggest beef with this is that we are unique and different than other countries. What works for them doesn't necessarily work for us. Many of these countries are much more transparent than we are about where the money goes and how much is spent. Others regularly skip procedures that we find ourselves doing regularly. The author argues that "doctors and hospitals would reduce the amount of unnecessary care they're now delivering in order to deliver needed care to those who are currently not getting what they need," which grossly ignores both the demand for these "unnecessary" procedures and doctors who are passionate about treating them. Again, these arguments were used to support the ACA and were, ultimately, incorrect in their optimistic analysis, it seems like we might get something similar here."

Billy Ray Irick Dies Painful Death in Tennessee

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Hodey Johns

"I'm against torture but, as a guy who used to believe in it, I get where they are coming from. I desperately would like to get the WAL perspective on this. As it stands, I only have the usual Libertarian talking points. Is it cruel and unusual? Yes. Have they been convicted in a court of law? No. Is it largely unsuccessful? Yes. Is it something you trust the government to use responsibly? No. I always find myself using a combination of those things. Ultimately, it's hard to argument with the extremely hypothetical situation of a bomb about to explode and there's some guy that is scared of pain knows the code right there and it will go off soon. I don't have a better answer other than, "Good thing that doesn't happen often," and, "Solving this one problem isn't worth creating all the other problems that would stem from that." I'd like something a bit stronger."

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Media plus government equals

I tried to boil down things we see in media and what the government sells us and I think I found a common thread between most stories. I have been watching the news lately from the right and left and the common theme seems to me to be; fear, safety and security are in jeopardy, outrage, willful blindness of inconsistency, and dehumanization or lack of empathy. I would say close to 80 percent of stories I saw the news pushing had one or more of these themes. All of the above mentioned themes of the news cycle and government policy reflect these tendencies, which don't require much thought to understand the scope of the argument that one side is pushing. Nuance has no place in this day and age for the average person. You go to the sites you trust because they reinforce your beliefs and you don't have to go through with the death of your ego in light of new information. Honestly this may sound kinda dumb and far-fetched but I heard a podcast with a psychiatrist who looked objectively at where the culture was going and said that the reason we are heading this way was the deification of self-esteem and happiness over reason and purpose. - Grant Hendley