

COMMON SENSE II

Capitalizing on the familiarity and influence of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" pamphlets that provided American colonists with exposure to the conversation of great thinkers in the pre-Revolutionary period, this paper assumes the name COMMON SENSE II. Similarly, today's series of pamphlets strives to give a direct response to great political events and ideas of our time.

November 2020

Post-Election Issue

Vol. 15 Issue 11

Election Leftovers

By Valerie Conner on.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/01/Pearl_2018_Pardon_Turkey.jpg

I'm writing this a few days before Thanksgiving. Like most people, I look forward to a holiday with some anticipation. Then it comes. Then it's over and life goes on. Since there'll just be the two of us and wishing to avoid days or weeks (yikes!) of leftovers, we

have decided to have a duck instead of a turkey. That way we can go back sooner to not paying a lot of attention to our normal diet of beef, pork, and chicken.

In a way, I thought the election would be like that:

- ◆ Intense activity in anticipation of a decisive win for Our Side.
- ◆ The election itself with the duck of a large mail-in ballot component instead of the usual in-person turkey.
- ◆ Early results with the promise of a better dessert.
- ◆ Return to "normal."

Like most holidays, the election was a bit of a disappointment with some good times. We didn't



<https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-BL0wP5GdfSE/XzdFXOGCXJ/AAAAAAABhY/YLQI-EQ5TBOkXgAf0LNyHj0>

win all the races, but we did win the Big One! Although Congressional and legislative races here weren't successful, Minnesota did stay blue by voting for both Sen. Tina Smith and President-elect Joe Biden!

The next day and even the following week, I was emotionally numb. I don't know if it was because of the lead up to the election was so intense or because it was only partially successful, but I didn't

really have a reaction.

Then it's like the dinner guests refuse to go home. Trump's childish antics serve only to spoil things. Why should I have expected anything else, since he's done nothing but spoil everything all his miserable life?

By refusing to implement the transition process in a timely manner, he not only hampered Biden's ability to get off to a vigorous start, he's sentenced many Americans to a premature death. It's clear he has given up on the country and his job. Early on he lost interest in dealing with the pandemic. Now he is refusing to do anything. He's been criticized for golfing instead of joining the G-20 meeting. Actually, he probably did less damage on the golf course than he would have on the G-20 call.



<https://festivalsvilupposostenibile.it/public/>

It's obvious that he doesn't want to do the job of President (if he ever did), but he does want to hold on to the power if for no other reason than to shield himself from the legal and financial peril he'll face once he's out of office.

I have no doubt that Joe Biden will be sworn in as our 46th President on January 20, 2021. How long we'll have to deal with the leftovers of the Trump reign and how rancid those leftovers will be are yet to be seen.

In any case, we as a nation will have to go on a diet and increase our exercise regimen to get back in shape for the future of this once great nation. By leaving office with or without dignity, Trump will at last accomplish his stated goal to Make America Great Again.

Happy Holidays!

The Environmental Scene without Trump

By Eric Grimsrud

Fortunately, I can now use the above title for an article concerning our immediate future. If Trump had been given another term, our environment would certainly have been badly damaged even more than it already is. So, with Trump soon to be escorted (or literally dragged) out of the White House, what improvements in our environment can we expect to see as a new Democratic administration comes on board?

First, with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is already clear that the new Democratic admin-



<https://p0.pikist.com/photos/174/556/corona-virus-mask-world-pandemic-infection-epidemic-covid-19-transmission-mouth>

istration will put a much higher priority on combating this pandemic by providing far greater financial and moral support to both the healthcare professionals and the victims of this plague.

With potential vaccines now coming on board, the possibility looms that we might see a turn around and even an eradication of this disease within the next year. Only time will tell when and what happens in this battle, but we are at least not making the efforts that a scientifically advanced³ country such as ours should have been making since the very first appearance of this dangerous virus.

Next, with respect to the relentless warming of our planet by our continuous addition of greenhouse gases (CO₂ in particular) to our atmosphere, any changes expected to accompany the new Democratic administration are much more difficult to predict. This is primarily because the fossil fuel lobby is so incredibly well-entrenched in both the US and abroad that their war chest and resulting death grips on all corners and niches of the world make this battle very difficult to win. Did you no-



https://energyeue.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Cattura_Energy_CuE_1-jpg

tice, for example, that in the recent Presidential election that Joe Biden's side did not clearly say that one of their ultimate goals would be to eliminate the use of all fossil fuels and emissions of CO₂ by some specific time in the future? They simply said that they were concerned about global warming and would endeavor to find solutions to it—without including relevant details.

So yes, in the next few years we have reason to hope that many important aspects of our lives will be improved by the replacement of "The Donald" and his cowardly set of Republican facilitators. These aspects will certainly include civil rights, healthcare, our economy and virus protection, but not so much improvement in the fight against climate change, a problem that is far more difficult to address. We hope that by the next election cycle we will finally be in a position to do much more to face the central cause of climate change: that is, the amount of greenhouse gases we continue to accumulate in our atmosphere.

So, what more could Biden do now to significantly help out in the fight against climate change? It turns out that there is a litmus test for examining the depths of one's claims to be fighting climate change; neither the Republicans (of course) nor the Democrats have passed this test so far. That litmus test is to favor a strong fee for the production and use of fossil fuels. The rationale for a carbon fee of this sort is that it would provide a charge for use of our atmosphere as a garbage dump for the disposal of the carbon dioxide. We should start that program immediately with the intention of continuously raising those fees in the future so that the alternate renewable forms of energy production become competitive with fossil fuel use as soon as possible. Our attempts to save our planet from overheating cannot happen until that change is made. To continue to use our atmosphere as a free-of-charge dumping ground for CO₂ is sure to prove to be suicidal for most forms of life presently on this planet. Mass extinctions of this sort have occurred before on earth due to abrupt changes in atmospheric CO₂ and, in case you haven't heard, our atmosphere already contains almost 50% more CO₂ than the natural level it had prior to the Industrial Revolution.



<https://southamptonclimatechange.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/litmus-test-image>

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Fresh Start

By Bob Passi

Fresh starts are full of hope and potential and possibilities, but they are also fragile and full of vulnerabilities. It is like planting a garden and hoping that it will not be killed by a late frost or insects or hungry animals. It is like a newborn that requires care and nurturing to survive in a seemingly indifferent world, or sometimes an openly hostile world.



<http://restoringpangea.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/young-plant.jpg>



<https://hayderecho.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NADA-250x250.jpg>

We are at one of those periods in this nation that requires a fresh start. We are in the process of extricating ourselves from a very dark political period. We are in the midst of a worsening pandemic with no cohesive national recovery plan, and lurking in the background is the ever-increasing challenge of climate change. Facing

these challenges, we must endure a period of limbo while the current administration denies these problems and jealously holds onto its waning power for perhaps another two months. Meanwhile, we are left to our own devices to nurture and encourage the changes necessary for a fresh start.

We must be vigilant to head off any last minute, devastating changes by a loose cannon President who will never admit defeat if he stays in character. We must rely on the other adults in the room to challenge and stop any last minute abuses of power that might threaten the nation or the world.

We must always keep our eye on the prize and the light at the end of the tunnel, which is the opportunity to recover our sanity and our democracy in time to deal with the last stages of this pandemic and the looming challenges of planetary climate change.



<https://brewminate.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/092519-06-Science-Trump-Politics-.jpg>

In order to deal with those realities, we must make a fresh start, redefining a new politics, a new economics, a new social compact to reunify these United States of America. We must rededicate ourselves to the true destiny of this nation, begun over 200 years ago as an experiment in democracy, becoming the beacon of hope for the world. We must embrace the basic needs for cooperation, empathy, and social justice. We must support the human spirit and create a society, an economy, and a politics that sustainably support such a society.

We must break our patterns of accepting top-down solutions imposed by those with wealth and power, the corporations, the banks, *etc.* and rely on the democratic process of trust that ordinary citizens will come together to find workable and sustainable solutions, guided not by the lure of profit or power but by the welfare of the entire society and the human spirit.

We must accept our place on this planet as a part of the living structure—the web of life that sustains us.

To accomplish this will require determination, grit, hard work, a very adult mindset, and discipline. It will be about keeping our focus on creating the new beginnings that this fresh start affords us. It will require all of our most positive and focused energy and will leave no room for the childish indulgence of demonizing others, trying to get retribution or even punishment. We cannot afford to squander any of our energy on getting even. We must be willing to turn the page and look to the future: a new beginning which offers the promise of a sustainable and life-supporting future for all of us and for the planet.

We cannot accomplish this alone, we must find ways to band together to build a cooperative society even if it is, at times, merely a coalition of the willing.

A fresh start and a new beginning are within our grasp. We cannot fail in this endeavor. Our lives, our nation, and the planet depend on it.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/2/28/Common_Good_-The_-_1.png/180px-Common_Good_-The_-_1.png

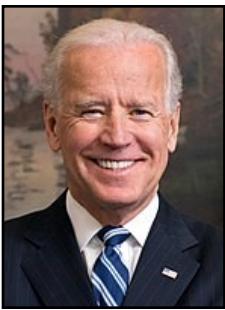


https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/03/13/08/41/change-671374_960_720.jpg

Joe Biden Is Pro-Life

By Jack Pick

When I see and hear Catholic bishops, evangelicals, and others bashing Joe Biden as pro-abortion, I feel compelled to speak up. Most folks, regardless of political affiliation or religion, including Joe Biden, would like to see fewer abortions.



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/>

The bottom line is how to make this happen. There are two ways: One way—this is often associated with “pro-life”—is to judge and to use the legislative and judicial branches of government to attempt to control the woman who chooses to end a pregnancy.

Another way—this coincides with Joe Biden’s thinking—is to address the causes of abortion without judgement, thereby actually reducing problem or unwanted pregnancies. For example, the lack of contraception access or use may contribute to more than half of all pregnancies. It is known that totally available and free contraception access reduces the number of abortions by over 40%. Planned Parenthood, by being funded, actually reduces abortions by more than legislators and judges’ efforts combined.



Other factors that contribute to abortion are healthcare or lack thereof, poverty, joblessness, hunger, homelessness, violence, lack of access to quality education, and more.

One of our major political parties addresses all of these issues; the other, not so much.

Imagine if hunger, homelessness, or illness were made unlawful, and the causes of these issues were not addressed. Would that end them? Of course not. The same is true for abortion.

**When you finally care
more about this**

than this



**Then, you can call yourself
“pro-life”**

<https://4.bp.blogspot.com/-muN8WqyoEvo/UBNqSBhjnjcI/AAAAAAAABVIs/2JGb0ty4S7g/s1600/>

Cuba is a case in point. It is both Communist and poor. There abortion is free on demand; it has an abortion rate that is 90% less than in our country, because they address all of these issues.

Joe Biden and all who are truly pro-life will not judge or weaponize the legislative and judicial branches of government but intend to address the causes of abortion. This is the only way to efficiently and effectively lower the abortion rate and improve people’s quality of life in the bargain.



<https://>

From a moral perspective, pro-life and pro-choice are one and the same. We can lower the abortion rate!

Editor's Note:

First, thanks to all who worked so hard and who voted to end our national nightmare.



Second, we are taking December off. The next *Common Sense II* will be out in January.

Meanwhile, have a safe, good holiday season!

<https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/pictures/240000/vélka-xmas-wreath-1513797682Hjx.jpg>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: GET INVOLVED AND GET IT DONE!

Event

- DFL Headquarters Open (326-6296)
- Itasca Progressive Caucus (259-4490)
- DFL Central Committee Meets
- DFL Social Club & Lunch
- DFL Pot Luck (Open to the Public)
- Working Families Alliance
- Earth Circle
- Circles of Support
- Haven: A Place for All
- Deadline for *Common Sense II*

Date /Time

- Closed in December
- Suspended
- 4th Monday
- Suspended
- Suspended
- Suspended
- Suspended
- Suspended
- Suspended
- January 8, 2021

Location

- DFL Headquarters
- DFL Headquarters
- Zoom
- DFL Headquarters
- DFL Headquarters
- Dutchroom
- GR Public Library
- 811 NE 4th St. GR
- Kiesler Center
- conray@arvig.net