



SPOTLIGHT

The Crime of the Century

By Dale M. Glading

Throughout history, there have been dozens of illegal activities that were labeled “The Crime of the Century” at the time. Aside from those involving political assassinations and serial killers, the purported “Crimes of the 20th Century” included the theft of the Mona Lisa in 1911, the Lindbergh kidnapping in 1932, the Black Dahlia in 1947, the Great Brinks Job in 1950, the Great Train Robbery in 1963, the Patty Hearst Kidnapping in 1974, the O.J. Simpson Case in 1994, the Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995, and the Columbine High School Massacre in 1999.

However, as headline-grabbing as those crimes were, I would assert that the most notorious crime committed from 1900 to 1999 was the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973 that legalized abortion during the first trimester and opened the floodgates to an estimated 70 million abortions.

Since the turn of the century, there have been scores of mass killings from the Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting in 2012 to the Boston Marathon Bombing in 2013. But to me, the greatest crime perpetrated against the American people in the 21st century

continued on page 2

Stop the Subsidies, Uncle Sam!

By Dale M. Glading

Guess what two economic drivers continue to increase at speeds far above the inflation rate? If you guessed healthcare and college tuition, you are “smarter than the average bear” as Yogi used to say.

Now if you can also tell me why those two industries are so expensive - and why they outpace virtually every other sector of the economy as far as costs are concerned - you are more intelligent than the overpaid lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

(I realize that’s not saying much.)

You see, the answer is so obvious that anyone with a 6th grade education can figure it out. And yet, the numbskulls in Washington are seemingly baffled by the question, so let me dumb it down for them.

If you subsidize something, you will get more of it. And so, when you subsidize healthcare with Obamacare tax credits on steroids - and subsidize college tuition with federally guaranteed grants and student loans – the prices for both will go up... A LOT!

That’s one of the reasons why the Republicans in Congress are digging in their heels and refusing to extend the Biden-era healthcare subsidies. House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune

are willing to revert to the original Obamacare subsidy levels, which are unsustainable themselves. However, they are saying a resounding - and so far, unified NO - to extending the supersized subsidies that were part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (2021) and the comically misnamed \$1.2 trillion Inflation Reduction Act (2022).

By the way, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center, the actual cost of the ARP would have been closer to \$3.5 trillion - including an additional \$300 billion for extending the enhanced healthcare subsidies beyond their scheduled sunset date - if it were fully implemented.

Of course, this is all in addition to the government funding bill that President Biden signed into law in March 2022 that provided \$885 million to assist historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges and universities, and other primarily minority serving institutions (MSIs), an increase of \$96 million over FY 2021. Notably, it also allowed HBCUs and MSIs more flexibility with how they spent COVID-19 relief aid, including “for the acquisition of real property or construction directly related to preventing, preparing for and responding to coronavirus.”

The bill also included \$1.5 billion for thousands of earmarks, more than 200 of which were for higher education projects. Cha-Ching!

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE...



Storm Clouds Are Brewing Overhead...Page 2

The Crime of the Century

continued from page 1

is the \$38 trillion of national debt that our federal government has accumulated.

To help put that figure in perspective, one trillion seconds is over 31,688 years. Our national debt is now 38 times that number or 1,204,144 years.

The national debt was \$37 trillion just two months ago, meaning that our federal debt load is gathering momentum like a snowball rolling downhill. This surge is being largely driven by increasing enrollment in entitlement programs, primarily Social Security and Medicare, as our population ages. Rapidly escalating interest payments due to higher interest rates are also contributing to the growing problem. In fact, we now spend more on interest payments on the national debt than we do on national defense.

Let that sink in for a minute.

Analysts now project that the cost of servicing our national debt will

jump from \$4 trillion to \$14 trillion over the next decade, with the debt reaching up to 120% of GDP by 2035. That, my friends, is simply unsustainable.

According to John Stonestreet and Dr. Glenn Sunshine of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, "Out-of-control debt has been a significant factor in the collapse of every major world power in history. For example, the French Revolution was triggered by a fiscal crisis, which sparked civil war and left between 300,000 and 500,000 dead, not including those killed abroad in foreign wars."

Could the United States be next, crumbling from within like a house of cards because of our smothering debt?

The reason I selected America's \$38 trillion debt as the "Greatest Crime of the 21st Century" is because we - the United States Congress and the voters who elect the people that serve there - are robbing our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren of their futures because we are unwilling to live within our means and to make the necessary sacrifices

now. Our collective selfishness is saddling them with a mountain of debt that will make them the first generations of Americans to enjoy a lower quality of life than their parents. We already see that in record low home ownership rates among young people.

Divide \$38 trillion by 340 million Americans and you come up with \$111,764. That's how much every American man, woman, and child owes because the cowards on Capitol Hill can't stop spending money that we don't have.

And do you know why they keep spending money like drunken sailors? Because voters allow them to. Politicians who are brave enough to try to stop the monetary madness get booted out of office while the ones who keep handing out freebies get re-elected ad nauseum.

It's time we grow up, demand fiscal responsibility in Washington, and start making sacrifices for the sake of future generations. Otherwise, we are simply accomplices to the Crime of the Century ourselves.

Storm Clouds Are Brewing Overhead

By Dale M. Glading

Just like there are different types of clouds - cirrus, cumulus, nimbus, and stratus - there are different kinds of storms that are brewing overtop America. Some are political, some are spiritual, and some are economic.

Let's start with the most important (and the most foreboding) which are the spiritual storm clouds gath-

ering overhead. But first, some historical context...

Charles Haddon Spurgeon pastored the New Park Street Chapel, later known as the Metropolitan Tabernacle, in London for 38 years, from 1854 to 1892. Under his stewardship, the Metropolitan Tabernacle grew to become the largest church in the world, seating 5,000 people with standing room for another 1,000. Spurgeon, known as the "Prince of Preachers" due to his soaring rhetoric, preached an estimated 3,600 sermons there, many

of which were published individually or as part of a collection.

During Spurgeon's lifetime, Great Britain was a bastion of Christianity, sending missionaries to the far corners of the world. For this reason, Spurgeon once praised God for blessing his native country with such a strong Christian faith and heritage.

"You have made this nation the home of the Gospel," Spurgeon wrote, "and when the enemy has

continued on page 3

Stop the Subsidies, Uncle Sam!

continued from page 1

Then there was the notorious Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, a \$1.2 trillion Green Energy boondoggle. One of its provisions was to build a national network of 500,000 EV charging stations at a cost of \$7.5 billion.

Not surprisingly, through the first three years of the Biden administration, a total of 183 chargers had come online at 44 stations across the country. In case you're wondering, that's .0366% of the project completed at a cost of \$4,098,360 per charger.

One of the other things this massive bill did was provide EV tax credits to coax consumers to buy electric vehicles. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that these government subsidies alone

would have cost taxpayers \$492 billion over a 10-year period.

Thankfully, the Trump administration allowed the subsidies to expire and guess what happened? Sales of all-electric vehicles collapsed last month following the end of up to \$7,500 in federal incentives for purchasing an EV.

Ford, Toyota, Kia, and Hyundai all reported major drops in electric vehicle sales last month after federal EV incentives ended. Ford reported a 25% drop in October compared to last year, and Toyota said it sold only 18 units of its bZ electric car, down from 1,401 units a year earlier.

OUCH!!!

Kia and Hyundai reported that sales of their top EV models dropped between 52% and 71% from a year earlier and some models - such as Hyundai's Ioniq 5 and

Ioniq 9 EVs - fell by 80% and 71% from September to October, respectively. It was a similar story for comparable vehicles at Kia, which is owned by Hyundai Motor but largely operates independently in the U.S.

"With the credit now off the table, the market appears to be settling into a more natural rhythm," said Jessica Caldwell, head of insights for CarMax's Edmunds.

In other words, if Uncle Sam would just stop meddling with the economy, the free market would take over and competition would drive prices down. That's what happened with cars, computers, and virtually every new technology ever developed.

So, just keep your cotton-pickin' hands off healthcare and college tuition, Uncle Sam, and watch those costs start to plummet, too.

Storm Clouds Are Brewing Overhead

continued from page 2

risen against her, You have shielded her. Help us to offer repeated songs for repeated deliverances."

Today, 133 years after Spurgeon's death, Great Britain is anything but the "home of the Gospel". In fact, the country that was once so zealous to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ is now nominally religious, with just 46.2% of the population identifying as Christian (down 13.1% over the past 10 years) and 37.2% saying that they are non-religious (up 12%). Meanwhile, the number of Muslims increased from 4.9% to 6.5% and Hindus increased from 1.5% to 1.7%.

Even more disturbing are the results of The European Social Survey, carried out between 2014 and 2016, which found that 70% of Britons between 16 and 29 were not religious.

Peeking beneath the surface shows just how much Christianity in Great Britain is on the decline. A Mass-Observation survey conducted in 1948 and 1949 found only 15% of Britons attended church... and The English Church survey found that church attendance was just 12% in 1979, 10% in 1989, and 7.5% in 1998.

Another poll from 2012 found church attendance had fallen even further to a mere 6%, with the average age of attendees being 51. That was down from 11% in 1980, when the average age was 37.

Pollsters predict church attendance will drop to a microscopic 4% this decade, with the average attendee being 56 years old.

Meanwhile, The Ipsos MORI poll in 2003 reported that just 18% of Britons were "a practicing member of an organized religion" and The Tearfund Survey in 2007 found that only 7% of the population considered themselves to be practicing Christians. That same survey revealed that 2/3 of Britons hadn't attended a religious service in the past year.

This decline in attendance has forced many churches to shut their doors across the United Kingdom, with the Church of England alone closing down 1,500 churches be-

continued on page 4

Storm Clouds Are Brewing Overhead

continued from page 3

tween 1969 and 2002. In October 2014, weekly attendance at Church of England services dropped below 1 million for the first time ever. That year, there were just 130,000 baptisms, down 12% since 2004; 50,000 marriages, down 19%; and 146,000 funerals, down 29%. The Church estimated that about 1% of churchgoers are lost to death each year... and they are not being replaced.

Conversely, a 2004 study showed that at least 930,000 Muslims attended a mosque at least once a week, just outnumbering the 916,000 regular churchgoers in the Church of England. Keep in mind that was 21 years ago, and the number of Muslim immigrants to Great Britain has swelled exponentially since then.

Why be concerned? Because, as British atheist Richard Dawkins once said, "I have mixed feelings about the decline of Christianity, insofar as Christianity might be a bulwark against something worse."

And so, Americans should stand up and take notice, because Hamtramck MI - which was 90% Polish as recently as 1970 - is now the first majority Muslim city in the United States. A suburb of Detroit, the 2-square mile town boasts 28,000 residents, an all-Muslim city council, and a Muslim mayor, Amer Ghalib. The main street in Hamtramck has been officially renamed "Palestine Avenue" and Mayor Ghalib's victory party was a men-only affair in line with Muslim custom and in accordance with Sharia law.

And yes, every day since July 2004, the Muslim call to prayer has been broadcast via loudspeakers throughout the town... which begs the question: Where is the ACLU and its attorneys?

Just 10 miles southwest of Hamtramck lies Dearborn, a much larger city with 110,000 residents. As of the 2020 census, 54.5% of Dearborn's population is of Middle Eastern or North African ancestry with Lebanese (20.7%), Yemenis (13.2%), Arabs (8.6%), and Iraqis (4.5%) being the most represented. Nor surprisingly, Dearborn's mayor, Abdullah Hammoud, is also Muslim.

Last year, Hammoud made headlines for telling a Christian evangelist that he "wasn't welcome" in Dearborn, before backing down and issuing a tepid apology.

For those who think that Detroit and its environs is the only area in America rejecting Christianity in favor of Islam, look no further than Tuesday's election results. New York City voters chose a Muslim Socialist over a Catholic Independent and in the Commonwealth of

Virginia, Ghazala Hashmi was elected lieutenant governor, the first Muslim to win statewide office in the U.S.

The election of Zohran Mamdani in NYC is especially troubling because he has a history of anti-Semitic comments and positions in a city with 1 million Jewish residents. A self-described Democratic-Socialist, Mamdani is now in control of 1/9 of the U.S. economy... an economic engine larger than the entire country of Canada.

I wonder how he is going to pay for the free buses and free childcare he promised, let alone manage to

freeze rental prices while opening government-operated grocery stores... especially when the "rich white people" he demonized throughout his campaign pack up and move, taking their checkbooks with them. The same goes for businesses, large and small, that are expected to flee the city and relocate to the suburbs and more tax-friendly states like Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and the Carolinas.

But then again, I'm sure the far-thinking New Yorkers who supported Mamdani because of his promise of more free government handouts thought that one through... NOT!

Hence the political and economic storm clouds brewing overhead.

I'm just glad that I live in the Free State of Florida, but unfortunately, what happens in Michigan, Virginia, and New York City impacts the Sunshine State, too. For instance, real estate analysts expect a mass exodus from the Big Apple - and New Jersey, where voters chose yet another liberal Democrat to be their next governor - down I-95 to the Florida Georgia Line (and no, I don't mean the former country music duo). That is sure to create a housing shortage and drive-up home costs even higher.

Oh well, at least they don't broadcast the Muslim call to prayer in Vero Beach. Here, at least for the time being, we only hear church bells ringing.



Use the QR code for Dale's latest blogs!