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# The Source for Freedom and Self-Reliant Information<sup>1</sup>

Thomas Jefferson defined *rightful liberty* as "unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others—I do not add 'within the limits of the law,' because law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the right of an individual."

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### A Fraud Perpetrated Against Humankind

President Donald Trump just withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Change Accord agreed to, on December 12, 2015, by Barrack H. Obama; NOT by Congress and certainly NOT by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Each Jeffersonian Group, LLC (<u>www.jeffersoniangroup.com</u>) publication is intended solely for information purposes and is not intended nor does it purport to provide legal, tax, individual investment advice, estate planning advice, insurance advice or business advice. In addition, information and analysis is compiled from sources believed to be reliable but such accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Readers should do their own research and consult with expert legal, tax, insurance, business and financial counsel before taking any action. Copyright © 2017 Jeffersonian Group, LLC

the American people. Jeffrey Tucker described the specifics of the agenda for the Paris Accord as it related to the United States:

"The Paris Agreement is a "voluntary" agreement because its architects knew it would never pass the US Senate as a treaty. Why? Because the idea of the agreement is that the US government's regulatory agencies would impose extreme mandates on its energy sector: how it should work, what kinds of emissions it should produce, the best ways to power our lives (read: not fossil fuels), and hand over to developing world regimes billions and even trillions of dollars in aid, a direct and ongoing forcible transfer of wealth from American taxpayers to regimes all over the world, at the expense of American freedom and prosperity."

"And you wonder why many people have doubts about it." 2

I do not believe that anyone disputes that the climate is changing; and, that "the Earth is indeed warming." As Dr. Robert Zubrin wrote, the Earth has been warming "since about 1600." The beliefs held by the Climate Change Elitists, which have no scientific basis, are in dispute:

- 1. The Earth is warming because of human industrial activity by emitting CO2.
- 2. CO2 warming is harmful to humanity, wild-life, and the planet.
- 3. Government should implement and enforce tax and regulatory policies that increase the price of fuel, electricity, food, and other basic goods & services; and,
- 4. through these government policies, humankind can stop the Earth's warming and stabilize the climate.<sup>4</sup>

As Dr. Zubrin has stated, proposition 1—the Earth is warming because of human industrial activity by emitting CO2—"might be true, but is not demonstrable."<sup>5</sup> According to Dr. Zubrin:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jeffrey A. Tucker, *The Amazing Arrogance of the Paris Climate Agreement*, Foundation for Economic Freedom, 12:11 pm email, June 2, 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Robert Zubrin, *The Assault on Science*, National Review, May 17, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Id*.

"The atmosphere of the Earth has been enriched over the past century from 300 parts per million CO2 to 400 parts per million, a rate which is consistent with human fossil-fuel use, and this could cause a temperature rise in the range of what we see. However, there are other industrial gas emissions that are global cooling agents, and the observed warming began long before human industrial activity was sufficiently large to be a credible agent of climate change. But let's stipulate . . . [this proposition] as being true, regardless."

"We then come to Proposition No. [2—CO2 warming is harmful to humanity, wild-life, and the planet]—which is manifestly false. Indeed, contrary to the claims of the anticarbon crusaders, both the CO2 enrichment of the atmosphere and the global warming that it may have caused have been greatly beneficial to both humankind and wild nature."

In support of Dr. Zubrin's analysis, Dr. Arthur C. Robinson, along with over 31,000 signers in a scientifically-reviewed article, wrote:

"Human use of coal, oil, and natural gas has not measurably warmed the atmosphere, and the extrapolation of current trends shows that it will not significantly do so in the foreseeable future. It does, however, release CO2, which accelerates the growth rates of plants and also permits plants to grow in drier regions. Animal life, which depends upon plants, also flourishes."

"As coal, oil, and natural gas are used to feed and lift from poverty vast numbers of people across the globe, more CO2 will be released into the atmosphere. This will help to maintain and improve the health, longevity, prosperity, and productivity of all people."

"Human activities are believed to be responsible for the rise in CO2 level in the atmosphere. Mankind is moving the carbon in coal, oil, and natural gas from below

<sup>7</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Dr. Arthur B. Robinson, Access To Energy, Vol. 44 no. 8, March 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *Id*.

ground to the atmosphere and surface, where it is available for conversion into living things. We are living in an increasingly lush environment of plants and animals as a result of the CO2 increase. Our children will enjoy an Earth with far more plant and animal life as that with which we now are blessed. This is a wonderful and unexpected gift from the industrial revolution."<sup>10</sup>

**Global warming is actually good for most of humanity**. But, "if you build your home right on the edge of the vast and turbulent Pacific Ocean," are you "justified in requiring the taxpayers to keep that ocean shore line right where it is," which most likely would not be possible anyway?<sup>11</sup> Taxpayers should not have to pay for others who choose to build their homes on shorelines, sides of mountains subject to mudslides, and in flood plains, etc.

As Dr. Robinson points out, the Earth's climate has not always been so "naturally benign." "In fact, the Earth's temperature over the past few thousand years has been very unusually stable:"

"Our climate is in the midst of an unusually long "interglacial" period during which temperatures have varied in a rare narrow range. Much more commonly, the Earth has resided in "ice ages" characterized by mile thick ice covering much of North America—punctuated by "interglacial" warm periods with much more brief maximum warm periods than the one we currently enjoy." 12

"And, even within this very benign period, climate fluctuations have been spectacular. For example, archeologists recently reported that 8,000 years ago the Sahara desert was a lush green area with high rainfall and even monsoons." <sup>13</sup>

"Even a small preliminary climate movement toward the more common Earth climates [i.e. global cooling rather than warming] of the past could have catastrophic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Dr. Arthur B. Robinson, *Access To Energy*, Vol. 44 no.6, January 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Robinson, *supra* note 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> *Id*.

consequences to current agricultural practices and human food supplies—within the lifetimes of people now alive." <sup>14</sup>

"We have, however, unprecedented defenses against such possibilities. We have science, engineering, and most of all, *energy*—essentially unlimited, very low cost useful energy, with which to power defensive science and technology." <sup>15</sup>

"Even in the case of natural climate changes that make impossible all outdoor farming in the United states, with . . . nuclear-electric energy available, we could grow all of our food indoors—and make everyone very comfortable besides." <sup>16</sup>

"The vast hydrocarbon energy available in coal, oil, natural gas, and especially the untapped methane clathrates in the shallow oceans also makes possible similar highenergy responses to major natural climate change. . ."<sup>17</sup>

As Dr. Robinson pointed out, "Mankind is now becoming technologically free." "Yet, the baser characteristics of mankind—greed, the desire for personal power and money, the desire for unearned wealth, and the desire for power over fellow human beings have brought among us people who reach for world wealth and power that depends upon the suppression of and falsification of science and technology." If these Global-Elitists, or, as Dr. Zubrin has referred to them, "The Cimate-Change Gang" or "supporters of the new Inquisition," get their way, resulting in "the implementation of a world-wide minimalist 'energy footprint';" and, there is a natural shift of climate towards a new ice age, "without immediate abundant low-cost energy, much of humanity would die from starvation alone."

If you want the facts, obtain a copy of the Global Warming Petition prepared by Dr. Arthur B. Robinson and signed by 31,478 scientists and engineers. Global warming is good for plants,

<sup>14</sup> <i>Id</i> .		
<sup>15</sup> <i>Id</i> .		
<sup>16</sup> Id.		
<sup>17</sup> Id.		
<sup>18</sup> Id.		
<sup>19</sup> Id.		

animals, the Earth and humanity. If the Global *Climate-Change Gang* gets its way, and the Earth starts cooling, "much of humanity would die from starvation alone."

By the way, the next time you hear or read that "97% of Climate Scientists Agree," understand that the purveyors of that statement, who have included **Barrack H. Obama, John Kerry, and Al Gore,** are "100% Wrong." They are perpetrating a fraud against humankind!

"If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed." Thomas Jefferson

## A Real Threat to Americans – Ignored by Government

One afternoon as I was getting a cup of coffee, I heard an interview with Dr. Michio Kaku, a Professor and Physicist. What caught my attention was his statement that within our lifetimes, we may see the total destruction of the cities of Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. When asked whether he would move there or go on vacation to Portland or Seattle, he stated that he would not; and, he has encouraged his family to stay away from the Pacific Northwest.

Why stay away from the Pacific Northwest? Well, just north of the San Andreas fault line, which practically everyone has heard of, is another fault line known as the Cascadia subduction zone, which is relatively unknown to most people. This fault line extends for 700 miles off the coast of the Pacific Northwest, from about Cape Mendocino, California through Oregon and Washington; and, ending up around Vancouver Island, Canada. The Cascadia subduction zone was not discovered until the late 1980's and early 1990's, after millions of people settled and established their homes, businesses, and schools. We now know that the Pacific Northwest has experienced 41 subduction-zone earthquakes in the past 10-thousand years or one earthquake every 243 years. It has now been about 317 years since the last earthquake, so the next Cascadia subduction zone earthquake is about 74 years overdue. This earthquake will cause a tsunami the likes that have never been seen by anyone living today.

"The Pacific Northwest has no early-warning system." And, considering natural disasters, "tsunamis may be the closest to being completely un-survivable." "To see the full scale of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Alex Epstein, '97% Of Climate Scientists Agree' Is 100% Wrong, Forbes Energy & Environment, January 6, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Kathryn Schulz, *The Really Big One, An Earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The 1question is when, Annals of Seismology, The New Yorker, July 20, 2015 Issue.* 

devastation when that tsunami recedes, you would have to be in the international space station. The inundation zone will be scoured of structures from California to Canada."<sup>22</sup>

"According to the FEMA director responsible for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska, the operating assumption is that 'everything west of Interstate 5 will be toast'." And, according to Dr. Kaku, the Cascadia subduction zone is 30 times more powerful than "the infamous San Andreas fault." Andreas fault.

Before you schedule a trip to the Pacific Northwest or contemplate moving there, or, if you live there already, you may want to read the article in The New Yorker by Kathryn Schulz, July 20, 2015 Issue titled, *The Really Big One*. As she stated, "An earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The question is when."

Our federal government knows what will happen and apparently has a relief-and-recovery plan in place through FEMA. Why are they not warning people ahead of time? Why are there no plans to minimize or eliminate the deaths and destruction before the natural disaster occurs? Perhaps, the Global elitists, (e.g., Barrack Obama, John Kerry, Al Gore, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, etc.) intend to blame the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami on manmade climate change?

# Compound Interest, Real Wealth and Financial Freedom

According to Einstein, "compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it... he who doesn't... pays it." By investing in great businesses—that have survived recessions, depressions, and wars—with dividend reinvestment programs (DRIP's), that pay a certain yield when purchased and that have paid and raised their annual dividend payments each and every year for 25-years or more, you are able to take advantage of the laws of compound interest, "the eighth wonder of the world!"

To understand the power of the laws of compound interest as it pertains to DRIP's, take a look at the story of three hardworking self-reliant Americans:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Id

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Jason Kashdan, *Is the U.S. ready for "the really big one"?*, CBS News, July 16, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Id.

- (1) Grace Groner graduated from Lake Forest College in 1931 and went to work as a secretary at Abbott Laboratories. In 1935, she invested \$180 in three shares of Abbott Laboratories (ABT) and reinvested the dividends for the next 75 years. When she died in 2010, her \$180 original investment was worth \$7-million due to stock splits and reinvested dividends.
- (2) Anne Scheiber, who worked as an IRS Auditor for 23 years turned a \$5,000 investment made in 1944 into \$22-million by the time she passed away in 1995 at the age of 101. She acquired stocks of companies like Coca-Cola (KO) and reinvested the dividends for decades.
- (3) Ronald Read, a World War II veteran with a high school education, worked as a gas station attendant for 25 years, then as a janitor for 17 more years before retiring at the age of 76. When he passed away at age 92 in 2014, he had a portfolio of great businesses (e.g., Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive) worth \$8-million by reinvesting the dividends.

Investing in great businesses that have paid and raised dividends for decades is not written much about in the mainstream financial media. Wall Street cannot make any money by publicizing DRIP's, which ordinary investors can acquire on their own. Wall Street makes billions in commissions selling mutual funds, annuities, and other financial products that are not necessarily in the best interests of investors.

Investing in certain DRIP's using the principle of compound interest is one simple approach to obtaining financial independence; and, in this uncertain world, the right DRIP's will allow you to maintain your financial freedom because the dividends continue to increase each year at a greater rate than inflation.

Financial freedom or financial independence has nothing to do with your net worth (assets less liabilities). There are many millionaires who are not financially independent; if they lost their 6-to-7 figure incomes from their jobs or career, many would have to file for bankruptcy. Many millionaires have to work every day to pay their mortgages on several homes, yachts, and all of their other expensive trappings of perceived wealth; they are slaves of the banks, who they pay their mortgages to; they are slaves of government who they pay their federal & state income taxes, Medicare & Social Security Taxes, and the ever-increasing real estate taxes on their lavish homes. If they have to work at their jobs and careers to maintain their lifestyle, they are not financially independent.

Contrary to popular opinion, a home is not an asset for creating real wealth, it is a liability. Your home does not generate any income; it is a *Money Pit*. You have to pay the mortgage, utilities, maintenance, property taxes that continue to go up each year, and, insurance that tends to also increase annually. After so many years, kitchens need remodeling, carpets &

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Robert T. Kiyosaki, *Rich Dad Poor Dad*, 83 Plata Publishing, LLC (2017).

flooring replaced, and, painting and decorating requiring new furniture to match the updated changes. And, the larger the home the more furniture that is needed to fill it up.

On the other hand, real wealth is a cash flow generated from your passive investments or assets that exceeds your expenses necessary to support the lifestyle of your choosing. You do not have to go to work; you may wake up at 6:00 am or noon; you may travel and live anywhere; and, your passive income or cash flow continues to flow into your bank account 24/7 regardless of whether you are awake, or asleep.

Once you become financially independent, you may even choose to continue working at your job or career; you may start another career or business; you may decide to go back to school; you may start a charitable foundation; or, you might just want to do nothing but travel and see the world. Once you have obtained financial freedom, you are no longer a slave and can do whatever you want; the choice then, becomes yours!

To attain financial freedom, you need to keep your expenses low, limit or eliminate your liabilities, and, accumulate assets or investments that pay you passive income. You must keep your expenses low so that you have enough income to acquire assets or investments on a regular basis. While you are working, you should shoot for saving and investing 10%-to-30% of your gross salary or other earned income; and, consider investing any bonuses and pay raises rather than buying a bigger home or boat or joining a country club. In addition, if you are married and both spouses work, try to live off one income and even invest 10% of the other spouses income.

Again, the assets you acquire must provide an ongoing and increasing cash flow, e.g., great businesses that have a history of paying and raising their dividends for 25-years or longer.

And, although it is never too late to start acquiring DRIP's, the earlier you start, the sooner you will gain your financial freedom.

# What Happens to DRIP's When the Market Crashes

If we experience a major stock market crash and average earnings decline for many companies, it stands to reason that the businesses paying dividends would have to cut or eliminate their dividend payments, not increase them. And, we have the most recent market decline and Great Recession that occurred in late 2008 to look at to see if this hypothesis is true.

Robert Allan Schwartz studied the growth rates of dividends paid by 139 *Dividend Champions*—businesses that paid and raised their annual dividends for at least 25-years straight—and found that 63% of those companies continued to raise their dividends in each year from 2008 to

2010.<sup>26</sup> Now, we must admit that the Great Recession that began in 2008 was pretty bad. However, if you look at the current list of *Dividend Champions*, which now includes 109 companies, everyone on this current list paid and raised their annual dividends since 1992 through the Great Recession of 2008. In addition, these 109 *Dividend Champions* also continued to raise their annual dividends through the market crash that began in 2000 and lasted for 3-years through 2002.

So, if you pick the right companies, like Coca-Cola (KO), which has paid and raised its annual dividend for 55-years, and Johnson & Johnson (JNJ), which has paid and raised its annual dividend for 54-years, you will actually make more money when the stock market crashes if you reinvest the dividends.

When the stock market falls, your dividends acquire more shares at reduced prices; and, if you have additional investment funds, you are able to purchase more shares of your existing DRIP's at a higher dividend yield, which is what happens with your reinvested dividends. In addition, since the stock prices are lower for most companies when the market crashes, the dividend yields on other great businesses rise to meet your parameters and become great investment opportunities.

To conclude, the DRIP's that we like and consider great investments are those that continue to pay and raise their annual dividends through market crashes, recessions, depressions, and wars.

### **Great Businesses to Buy Now**

As mentioned previously, the only safe investment that provides passive income that keeps up with inflation is to buy great businesses with worldwide operations, that have survived wars, depressions, and recessions; and, just as important, have paid and raised dividends for at least 25-years and longer. As of this time, there are 109 such companies called *U.S. Dividend Champions* that have paid and raised their annual dividends for at least 25-years; many have done so over a longer period of time.

In addition, there are many *Contenders* that have paid and raised their annual dividends for 10-to-24 years; and, we believe many of these companies are also great investments.

Of the 12 Great Businesses that we believe should be in everyone's portfolio, the following *U.S. Dividend Champions* meet our parameters and are current buys:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Marc Lichtenfeld, *Get Rich With Dividends*, 45, Second Edition, John Wily & Sons, Inc. (2015).

- 1. Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) \$126.92, yield = 2.65%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 54-years
- 2. Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM) \$81.55, yield = 3.78%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 34-years
- 3. Coca-Cola Company (KO) \$45.39, yield = 3.26%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 55-years
- 4. Procter & Gamble (PG) \$87.25, yield = 3.16%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 60-years
- 5. Wal-Mart Stores (WMT) \$78.13, yield = 2.61%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 44-years
- 6. McDonald's Corp (MCD) \$149.86, yield = 2.51%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 41-years

Two additional Great Businesses that we believe ought to be in everyone's portfolio are also considered a current buy:

- Intel Corporation (INTC) \$36.26, yield = 3.01%, Paid Dividends for 24-years
- Walt Disney Company (DIS) \$108.41, yield = 1.44%, Paid Dividends for 33-years

Disney makes up for its low yield with regular stock splits. For example, 100 shares purchased in January 1986 for \$11,262 turned into 4,800 shares, from stock-splits only, 30 years later worth \$480,600 in 2015. Disney is the world's largest media business and owns Star Wars, Marvel, ESPN, ABC, The A&E Network, a cruise line, a global network of resorts, Touchtone, and Pixar. In the January Issue of *Sure Dividend* by Ben Reynolds, Disney (DIS) was one of his top ten dividend stocks. Although Disney (DIS) does not do well during recessions, it has not decreased its dividend payout for 33 straight years; it is a *World Dominating* Great Business.

The following additional *U.S. Dividend Champions* are also good buys right now:

- 1. Kimberly-Clark Corp (KMB) \$129.51, yield = 3.00%, Paid & Raised Dividends 45-years
- 2. PepsiCo Inc. (PEP) \$117.91, yield = 2.73%, Paid & Raised Dividends 44-years
- 3. Target Corp (TGT) \$54.40, yield = 4.41%, Paid & Raised Dividends 49-years
- 4. VF Corp (VFC) \$53.71, yield = 3.13%, Paid & Raised Dividends 44-years
- 5. Weyco Group Inc. (WEYS) \$27.29, yield = 3.22%, Paid & Raised Dividends 35-years
- 6. Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) \$42.45, yield = 3.02%, Paid & Raised 42-years

*Contenders* are companies that have paid and raised their dividends for 10-to-24 years. The following six *Contenders* are priced right for acquisition:

- 1. General Mills (GIS) \$57.32, yield = 3.35%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 13-years
- 2. Int'l Business Machines (IBM) \$152.49, yield = 3.93%, Paid & Raised 21-years
- 3. Lockheed Martin (LMT) \$283.65, yield = 2.57%, Paid & Raised Dividends 14-years
- 4. Omega Healthcare Investors (OHI) \$31.56, yield = 7.98%, Paid & Raised 15-years
- 5. Qualcomm Inc. (QCOM) \$57.52, yield = 3.96%, Paid & Raised Dividends 14-years
- 6. Enterprise Products Partners (EPD) \$26.89, yield = 6.17%, Paid & Raised 20-years

The next category of dividend payers are called *Challengers*, which have paid and raised their dividends for 5-to-9 years. In today's market, we like the following two companies:

- AbbVie Inc. (ABBV) \$66.06, yield = 3.88%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 5-years
- Cisco Systems Inc. (CSCO) \$31.50, yield = 3.68%, Paid & Raised for 7-years

AbbVie Inc. (ABBV) was created in January 2013 as a spin-off from Abbott Laboratories, which has paid dividends for 45-years. ABBV has paid dividends since it was created and its most recent dividend increase was 12.8%; and, its 3-year average increase in dividend payments is 12.5%. AbbVie Inc. is liked and recommended by Marc Lichtenfeld, who wrote *Get Rich With Dividends* and Ben Reynolds, *Sure Dividend* (January 2017 Edition).

Cisco Systems Inc. (CSCO) has raised its dividend on average by 40.6% over the past five years.

#### How To Invest . . .

We have listed 26 great businesses that pay and raise their dividends which we believe are good buys in today's market. Some of you may already own many of these stocks. Some of you may not own any of these great businesses. Some of you may have \$100,000 to invest while others may only have \$1,000. Using a discount broker (e.g., E\*TRADE, Schwab, TD Ameritrade, Fidelity, etc.), you can now buy 10 shares or 1,000 shares and the brokerage fees will be less than ten dollars. In addition, once you acquire any of these DRIP's, you can instruct your discount broker to automatically reinvest the dividends at no additional cost.

If you are just starting this investment program, you should first acquire the first six *U.S. Dividend Champions* that we have recommended for everyone's portfolio, i.e., JNJ, XOM, KO, PG, WMT, and MCD. The order of our listing has nothing to do with one company being better than the others; they are all great businesses! If you have enough investment capital to invest in all six, 10-to-100 shares or more of each, then you should consider doing so. If you only have \$1,000 to invest, buy 20 shares of Coca-Cola (KO); then buy more shares the next month; or, pick any other great business listed as *U.S. Dividend Champions* that you personally like; they are all great companies that have paid and raised their dividends for more than 25-years. As an alternative, you might select one-to-three stocks to acquire each month. Do whatever you feel comfortable with, just start investing in these great businesses. Remember, the only way to become financially independent is to acquire assets (e.g., DRIP's) that pay you passive income that exceeds your lifestyle expenses.

#### Free Speech, Protests and Academia

On February 1, 2017, Milo Yiannopoulos was scheduled to speak at the University of California-Berkeley. More than 100 UC Berkeley faculty members signed a petition to cancel the event. Over 1,500 people gathered to protest the event and about 150 people set fires, threw fireworks, threw rocks, attacked members of the crowd, and, damaged property. The event was officially cancelled after the violence broke out.

On February 15, 2017, a group of masked protestors tried to shut down Cory Lewandowski's speech at the University of Chicago.

On March 2, 2017, protestors at Middlebury College in Vermont violently protested a speech by Charles Murray.

Heather MacDonald said that it was an "exercise of brute totalitarian force" when her speaking engagement was shut down on April 6, 2017 at Claremont McKenna College.

And, at the end of April, Ann Coulter cancelled her speech at UC Berkeley amid protests that appeared to be violent; and, if I recall, the police said they would not be able to guarantee her safety.

Also, during the presidential election, candidate Donald Trump was going to make a speech at a specific rented and enclosed venue. Mobs gathered in protest of his event. They blocked traffic and harassed Trump supporters as they tried to enter the rented venue to hear him speak. The Trump rally was cancelled because of safety issues.

All of these protests have been considered free speech protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Before proceeding, let's look at what the First Amendment actually says:

"Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech . . . or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The first thing that this Amendment does is prohibit Congress from passing any law that would restrict the freedom of speech. Next, it restricts Congress from passing any law that would not allow people to assemble peaceably. And finally, we the people are able to petition government when we feel we have a grievance. That is all this Amendment says.

The First Amendment does not state that freedom of speech supersedes or is superior to the U.S. Constitution, including all other Amendments. It does not say that anyone has a right to

interfere with another person's right to free speech; and, it does not say that in the name of free speech, a person has a superior right that supersedes another person's right to *Life*, *Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness* or property. In other words, **any protests denying** someone else the right to speak, or, that interferes with commerce or travel, e.g., blocking roads, sidewalks, and retail establishments, or, that results in property damage, is not free speech protected by the First Amendment.

Therefore, the six protests described above are examples of the Protestors violating the First Amendment rights of the speakers and their audiences, along with their rights to *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*. To the extent that people were assaulted and property was damaged, the Protestors ought to be criminally charged, financially liable for the property damage and injuries to others, and, serve time in prison.

The 100 or more UC Berkeley faculty members, who signed a petition to cancel the Milo Yiannopoulos speaking engagement, illustrated their ignorance and lack of understanding of the U.S. Constitution; and, the indoctrination that takes place in our compulsory education system that has infiltrated our institutions of higher learning. These faculty members were attempting to violate the First Amendment right of the speaker and the students who invited him to speak. In addition, they incited over 1,500 other people to aid them in their endeavor, which ultimately led to the assault of other individuals and property damage. Instead of violating the rights and property of others, the faculty members and others had two alternatives: (1) They did not have to listen to the speech; or (2) they could have listened politely to the speaker and challenged his ideas in a debate or in a follow-up speech.

We have a right to peaceably protest but, this right really only applies to Government, i.e., we have a right "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." If we do not like what a particular person is saying or doing, or, we do not like a particular business establishment, our choices are simple. First, we can ignore those people and not use their services or buy their products. Secondly, we can write or speak-out against those individuals as long as we do not slander them. And finally, we can peaceably assemble and "petition the Government for redress of grievances" as it might relate to certain actions of particular individuals and business establishments.

We have no right to organize a protest that disrupts traffic and stops other individuals from entering a legally established business. We have no right to interfere with another individual's right to free speech. And, we certainly do not have a right to assault others and destroy property in the name of the First Amendment. By allowing this type of behavior, which seems to be encouraged by our institutions of higher learning, we are sowing the seeds of anarchy and revolution.

Rightful liberty, as defined by Thomas Jefferson, is "unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others . . ." As Jefferson infers, organized protests against another citizen's right to speak or to operate a legal business does not represent protected free speech under the First Amendment. Such actions tend to stoke the flames of anarchy; and, will ultimately lead to revolution.

We must get rid of our compulsory education-indoctrination system; separate Education from the State; and, foster an environment where going to school is deemed a privilege, not a requirement.

Dum spiro, spero—While I breath I hope.

Slainte mhath,

Robert G. Beard Jr., C.P.A., C.G.M.A., J.D., LL.M.