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“Social Security could be bankrupt in two years.”

“For the first time, women under 25 are more likely to become mothers before they consider marrying.”

“It’s as though we’ve entered something like the nuclear era without a Hiroshima”

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the TRUMPET WEEKLY

A DIGEST OF SIGNIFICANT WORLD NEWS FROM THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET STAFF • FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-18, 2009

Radical Social Engineering, for Sure



JOEL HILLIKER
COLUMNIST

“THIS IS not radical social engineering,” said Pennsylvania State Rep. Dan Frankel. “This is something that is becoming routine, almost. And it’s being embraced in some of the most unlikely places.”

Mr. Frankel is right. He’s also dead wrong.

He was speaking of a controversial bill moving through Pennsylvania’s legislature that would guarantee homosexuals and transsexuals protection against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. As he correctly said, such legal measures are becoming routine in the United States and are being embraced by an increasingly large swath of the nation.

But the notion that this doesn’t represent a radical re-engineering of American society is a lie.

This month, Iowa and Vermont joined Massachusetts and Connecticut in allowing same-sex “marriage.” Human Rights Campaign, a homosexual rights group, says these four states are among 12 nationwide that legally permit some form of same-sex partner recognition. New York and New Jersey are poised to take up the question soon.

In addition, 20 states and over 180 cities and counties across the country have passed legislation specifically banning discrimination against homosexuals and, in most cases, transsexuals. The morally and culturally transformative nature of these laws is only beginning to manifest itself. Last week, the *Washington Post* provided several recent examples of individuals and faith-based groups fighting legal battles for having resisted the cause—and losing.

- A Christian photographer was forced by the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission to pay \$6,637 in attorney’s costs after she refused to photograph a gay couple’s commitment ceremony.
- A psychologist in Georgia was fired after she declined for religious reasons to counsel a lesbian about her relationship.
- Christian fertility doctors in California who refused to artificially inseminate a lesbian patient were barred by the state supreme court from invoking their religious beliefs in refusing treatment.
- A Christian student group was not recognized at a University of California law school because it denies membership to anyone practicing sex outside of

traditional marriage.

These examples provide a glimpse at how rapidly the homosexual movement is progressing toward its goal: to be able to silence, with the full force of the law, anyone who objects to their immoral behavior. This cause is gaining steamroller momentum in not only the United States but also several other Western nations.

Those who take a stand against it are getting leveled. Legal analysts say religious groups that resist supporting homosexual rights could be punished by having to forfeit their tax exemptions. The *Post* also mentioned how any group opposing homosexuality can lose even when it wins. The Boy Scouts of America, for example, won the right in 2000 to ban openly homosexual Scout leaders. Since then, they have lost support from private charities and benefits from some governments. Right now courts are deciding a suit where the city of Philadelphia is demanding \$200,000 yearly rent on a building the Scouts had formerly used for free.

The individuals and faith-based groups losing these suits claim that their “freedom of religion” is being sacrificed to ever-expanding anti-discrimination laws. In truth, the problem is far more pernicious than merely losing freedom of religion. It is nothing less than a revolutionary redefinition of the *pillar institution* in our society.

No civilization in history—not even those quite tolerant of homosexuality and transsexualism—has ever proposed *redefining the concept of marriage*.

Are any of the individuals so zealously promoting the gender confusion associated with these practices curious as to why?

The legal protections surrounding the marriage of a man and woman, and the children that emerge naturally from that union, are intended to safeguard family, the fundamental building block of civilization. The legal obstacles facing homosexual and other couples have been constructed expressly—in society after society throughout history—to discourage behavior that undermines social stability.

Evidence is plenteous showing the benefits of traditional marriage to both husband and wife, as well as society at large—and the high costs associated with its dissolution. Time and again, studies have shown the enormous advantages to children—in personal safety, academic performance, financial well-being, emotional stability, self-respect, and assimilation into law-abiding adult life, among

see **ENGINEERING** page 10

MIDDLE EAST

“THE INCREASING instability of Pakistan’s government makes Pakistan—more than Afghanistan—the central challenge of our ‘AfPak’ policy.” This is the perception now taking hold in the U.S. according to an article on Human Events.com on Wednesday. Last week, David Kilcullen, a former Australian



Pakistani firefighters try to douse blazing NATO tankers after a suspected Taliban attack.

Army officer, who was a top adviser to Gen. David Petraeus during the troop surge in Iraq and is now a consultant to the Obama administration, said Pakistan could collapse within one to six months. “You just can’t say that you’re not going to worry about al Qaeda taking control of Pakistan and its nukes,” Kilcullen said. “We have to face the fact that if Pakistan collapses, it will dwarf anything we have seen so far in whatever we’re calling the war on terror now.” In the past, the Pakistani military prevented Islamists from taking control of the country; now, Pakistan’s army and intelligence services are largely sympathetic to the jihadist cause. If the Islamists’ onward march is not stopped, Pakistan could easily become a nuclear-armed terrorist-sponsoring state.

Egypt arrested 49 Hezbollah agents last week for planning “hostile operations” and for espionage, according to Egypt’s Attorney General Abdel-Magid Mohammed. Mohammed also said that Hezbollah had rented apartments overlooking the Suez Canal to spy on canal traffic, and that Hezbollah agents were holding training workshops on how to spread Shiite ideology in Egypt. On April 13, Egyptian officials reported that Hezbollah was planning to attack Israeli tourists in the Sinai. They claim to have found bomb-making materials and explosive belts, and to have uncovered a plan to smuggle more weapons into Egypt. Iran is Egypt’s real enemy in this spat. Iran wants Egypt onside—either by cajoling it into forming an alliance or by changing the regime to one more supportive of its cause. Biblical prophecy indicates that Egypt will end up abandoning its relatively pro-Western stance and aligning with Iran.

A scheme to smuggle nuclear weapons materials from China to Iran using American dollars was recently uncovered by the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. “A Chinese financier who peddles nuclear weapons material to Iran was indicted [April 7] for illegally running tens of millions of dollars through a half-dozen New York banks,” the *Daily News* reported. One law enforcement source said the case shows how the Iranians are “going ahead full-steam to get a nuclear bomb.”

HUMAN EVENTS, ROBERT SPENCER | April 8

Arab League Backs Darfur Genocide

GENOCIDE IN Darfur? Relax! At its summit last week in Qatar, the Arab League decisively rejected the International Criminal Court’s indictment of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. “We [emphasize] our solidarity

Jerusalem: Your Thermometer for Measuring Crises

PASSAGES IN both the Old and New Testament show that Jerusalem is the center around which world events orbit in the months and days leading up to the return of Jesus Christ. To those who understand this prophetic reality, Jerusalem is more than just another city blistered by chaos: It’s a thermometer for measuring—and *anticipating*—end-time events!



Zechariah 14:1-2 shows that the fall of East Jerusalem immediately precedes the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. “When half of Jerusalem falls,” editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in March 2006, “it starts a chain reaction of events—an avalanche of crises—that leads directly to Christ’s Second Coming!”

With this in mind, consider the tense atmosphere in East Jerusalem. On April 2 in the West Bank near East Jerusalem in the town of Bat Ayin, a Palestinian brandishing a pickax hacked a 13-year-old Israeli boy to death and wounded his 7-year-old friend. Two Islamic terrorist claimed responsibility for the murder, warning ominously that it was merely a “natural response to the crimes of the occupation.”

The same day, in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem’s Old City, seven Jewish settlers sparked outrage among Palestinians when they broke into the home of Nasser Jaber, a Palestinian businessman who had moved out of the home while renovations were being done. The settlers replaced the locks, took over the home and refused to leave.

Less than a week later, a Palestinian man was shot as he was attempting to run over Israeli police officers monitoring the demolition of the Jerusalem home of the Palestinian terrorist who killed three Israelis in a bulldozer rampage last July. Afterward, a scuffle erupted between police officers and dozens of angry Palestinians.

The next day, the Ma’an News Agency reported that Hamas official Abu Ubayda had threatened Israel of an “EXPLOSION” if it continues to consolidate control of Jerusalem.

Watch Jerusalem, this remarkable thermometer of end-time events, more closely than ever. Even now, conditions in that city—politically, demographically, economically, even archeologically—indicate that the Messiah’s return is imminent!

with Sudan and our dismissal and rejection of the decision handed down by the International Criminal Court,” read the Arab League communiqué.

It is worth exploring with what exactly the Arab League is expressing solidarity. Al-Bashir has overseen the genocidal campaign of the government-backed Janjaweed militias in the Darfur region of western Sudan, in which 400,000 people have been killed and over 2,500,000 left homeless. In 2004, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan said the situation in Darfur was “world’s greatest humanitarian crisis.” ...

A 2008 report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that “the scale of destruction suggests that the damage was a deliberate and integral part of a military strategy.” ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said that al-Bashir had order[ed] government forces “not to bring back any wounded or prisoners. He wanted to commit genocide.”

But instead of denouncing the Darfur genocide and calling al-Bashir to account, as one might expect from the adherents of the vaunted religion of peace, the Arab League has closed ranks behind him. And not just the Arab League: Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem declared: “What is required from all of us is to stand with our brothers in Sudan and its leadership in order to prevent dangers that affect our collective security.” Whose collective security? That of the Islamic world: the 57-government Organization of the Islamic Conference called the ICC’s arrest warrant “unwarranted and unacceptable.” ...

It is disquieting enough that the Arab League and its Muslim allies seem to value Islamic solidarity over bringing a criminal to justice, but the proposition that to oppose genocide in Darfur is to attack Islam should give the Obama administration pause. During his trip to Turkey this week, Obama repeated that the U.S. seeks “broad engagement” with the Islamic world “based upon mutual interests and mutual respect.”

It would be worthwhile for him to ponder the question of what respect means in this context, when to speak out against mass murder is considered an act of disrespect. ...

Instead of focusing on respect, Obama would do a greater service to the victimized Muslims of Darfur by focusing on justice. He has declared in Turkey that “the United States is not and never will be at war with Islam.” But when major Muslim entities consider that defense of basic human rights constitutes a war with Islam, what will Obama say?

EUROPE

ATHEISTS WERE to blame for Nazism, according to the Catholic bishop of Augsburg, Walter Mixa. Mixa warned of the dangers of rising atheism in Germany on Sunday, saying that the Nazi regime was an atheist one. To say the Nazis were atheists is a lie—and Bishop Mixa knows it. Social Darwinism did play a key role in Nazi doctrine, but most Nazis firmly believed in a God. In fact, the history of Nazi Germany’s Catholic connections during World War II shows what kind of regimes the Vatican has been willing to support to obtain power, and what it is willing to do to convert people to its way of thinking. It has been this way throughout all Vatican history.

The ports of Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne-sur-Mer were blockaded this week by French fishermen protesting for more subsidies from the government and a change in fishing quotas. Thousands of truck drivers and holiday-goers were left stranded on both sides of the English Channel as ferries were unable to dock in France. After talks with the government on Wednesday, French Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Michel Barnier offered €4 million (US\$5.4 million) in aid to the fishermen. The quotas, however, are set by the European Union, and France cannot change them on its own. Watch for more issues like this to spark protests in Europe as the economy gets worse.

A Nuclear Talibanistan?

OUR VIEW of Pakistan’s role in the war in Afghanistan has undergone an ominous but necessary series of shifts. At the outset of the war, in October 2001, Pakistan correctly was seen as a necessary ally... .

Over the years, we came to understand that Pakistan’s intelligence service was playing a double game—helping us but also supporting the Taliban—while Pakistan’s northern area became a safe haven for both the Taliban and al-Qaida. Thus, Pakistan came to be seen as part of the problem that the Obama administration reasonably has taken to calling the “AfPak” war. ...

Now another perception shift is starting to take hold: The increasing instability of Pakistan’s government makes Pakistan—more than Afghanistan—the central challenge of our “AfPak” policy. Last week, David Kilcullen, a former Australian army officer who was Gen. Petraeus’ senior counterinsurgency strategist and is now a consultant to the Obama White House, said Pakistan could collapse within months.

“We have to face the fact that if Pakistan collapses, it will dwarf anything we have seen so far in whatever we’re calling the war on terror now,” he said. Kilcullen said time is running out for international efforts to pull both countries back from the brink. “You just can’t say that you’re not going to worry about al-Qaida taking control of Pakistan and its nukes,” he said. “The Kabul tail was wagging the dog.” ... “Afghanistan doesn’t worry me. Pakistan does.” He said that maybe we can manage Afghanistan and Richard Holbrooke can cut an international deal, but there is also a chance that Washington will fail to stabilize Afghanistan, that Pakistan will collapse, and that al-Qaida will end up running what he called “Talibanistan.” ...

Pakistan’s military seems insufficient to deal with the radical Islamists. After the Taliban took over the Swat Valley in the middle of Pakistan, seized an emerald mine to help finance their war with America and Pakistan, and established Shariah law, the Pakistani government was so weak it accepted a cease-fire with Maulana Fazlullah, a local thug and terrorist.

With our own Army too small, our NATO allies unwilling to help, and Gen. Petraeus’ senior counterinsurgency adviser worried that the Taliban and al-Qaida will be able to take over nuclear Pakistan, we are left with a policy of temporizing and crossing our fingers.

EU OBSERVER | April 14

National Politicians Undermining EU Parliament

LIBERALS in the European parliament criticized national politicians on Tuesday, saying they regularly try to hide the important legislative role the EU-level chamber plays.

German liberal MEP Jorgo Chatzimarkakis said EU citizens were for the large part unaware that the vast majority of national legislation originates in Brussels—saying the percentage was 85 percent in Germany, and even higher in eastern Europe.

He said this ignorance was a result of domestic deputies not telling their constituents how much work is performed by their EU-level counterparts. “People don’t know this because national politicians don’t want them to know. They don’t want to show up their own minor role,” said

Mr. Chatzimarkakis by way of explaining the low voter turnout in European elections. ...

The European media also came in for criticism for their apparently poor coverage of European parliamentary affairs with Mr. Chatzimarkakis saying: “normal editors have clichéd ideas about what the readers want.”

Party president Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck went fur-

ther still in her criticism of coverage of the chamber. “If the European media paid as little attention to football as they do to the European Parliament, then no one would understand the rules,” she said. ...

“It is difficult to conceive of a more inefficient, bureaucratic, undemocratic, unaccountable and corrupt institution than this European Union. ... But from where does this beastly Eurofederation, destined to shortly dominate the globe, gain its power? It is very clearly revealed in John’s great apocalyptic vision: ‘the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority’ (Revelation 13:2).”

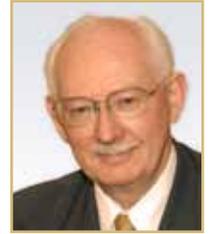
—*Trumpet*, August 2001

ASIA

CYBERSPIES FROM Russia and China have penetrated the U.S. electrical grid and implanted software that could be used to disrupt the system in the future. According to a report by the *Wall Street Journal* last week, senior intelligence officials are warning that this software could be used to destroy water, sewage and other infrastructure systems by manipulating their Internet-based communications systems. Such a disruption is not without precedent. In 2000, one disgruntled employee at an Australian water-treatment plant rigged a computerized control system, releasing over 200,000 gallons of sewage into parks, rivers and the grounds of a hotel. Though it fields the world’s preeminent military, America is not impenetrable. An organized cyberattack on the American power grid—which is comprised of three separate electric networks, covering the East, the West and Texas—could easily damage sewage systems, shut down transportation lines, upset communications systems, disrupt the economy, ruin investor confidence and cause massive social chaos. Modern American history is peppered with shameful examples of lawlessness quickly erupting in the streets when ignited by specific events. The Los Angeles riots in 1992, for example, were some of the deadliest in U.S. history, killing close to 60 people, causing an estimated \$1 billion in property damage and costing 40,000 jobs. A targeted, sustained cyberattack conducted

The EU and Global Regulation

CERTAIN ACTIONS by Vatican loyalists and German corporatists involved in the European and global banking community have recently consummated in establishing a regulatory power that will oversee all major corporate, financial and banking decisions around the globe. That institution is the Financial Stability Board (FSB), headed by Italian banking guru Mario Draghi.



Draghi, a committed Europhile and dedicated Roman Catholic with historic connections to the Vatican Bank and European Central Bank, has suddenly become the most powerful regulator of banking and commerce in the world. His overnight elevation came in the wake of the 20 most powerful economies in the world signing over their sovereign powers regulating their economies to the FSB at the recent G-20 conference in London.

Speaking shortly after the conclusion conference, “Draghi, who is also a member of the European Central Bank Governing Council, said certain decisions agreed at the G-20 were good but would take time to implement,” Reuters reported.

“The reform of remuneration systems or the setting up of colleges of supervisors for banks or insurers can be done immediately,” he said. “But in other cases, like the reinforcement of capital bases, we all agree on the way to go but it will take a year or two to work out the details.”

However, certain negative systemic factors lie deeply embedded within the global economy that could accelerate the FSB agenda rapidly. Signs show that by year’s end the global economy will have so worsened that social instability will cause governments wide concern. In particular, the prospect of escalating inflation from policies being pursued by Anglo-Saxon governments could even lead to the collapse of whole national economies. Such a state of events could very well impel the powers behind the FSB to use its regulatory authority to the political and economic advantage of its principal controller, the European Union!

The *Trumpet* will keep you abreast of developments as this latest extension of EU power begins to impose its regulatory power on the global economy to the very point that “no man might buy or sell” without yielding to its authority (Revelation 13:16-17).

by Russia, China or some other rival nation or non-state actor could play a major role in igniting similar chaos in the future.

AMERICAN THINKER, KIM ZIGFELD | April 13

Russia Goes From Bad to Worse

TWO FRIGHTENING events last week showed the unbridled contempt with which the neo-Soviet regime of proud KGB spy Vladimir Putin views the rule of law. First, a Russian court in Siberia entered a \$1.7 billion judgment against the Norwegian telecommunications firm Telenor, wiping out its stake in the major Russian telecom entity, Vimpelcom.

One Russian investment analyst said the ruling “makes the flesh creep.” That’s because “Western banks and companies are owed \$453 billion by Russian corporations ... and it does not appear that Putin’s Kremlin is inclined to tender repayment now that Russia is mired in a horrific recession that has seen 75 percent of the stock market’s equity vanish and the currency lose one third of its value. ...

But if the Telenor ruling made the flesh creep, the remarks of the Russian Supreme Court’s Chief Justice Valery Zorkin made it do the 100-yard dash. In a speech in St. Petersburg seeking to rationalize Putin’s draconian rollback of civil liberties, Chief Justice Zorkin blamed democracy for Adolf Hitler’s success in toppling the Weimar Republic ... He openly acknowledged and defended “the elements of authoritarianism that are present in the administration of the country” and said that the only reason Russians chose to be ruled by a proud KGB spy was that democracy and capitalism had been tried and failed, so that “with one further step” towards them the state could have “fallen apart.” Zorkin’s audience accepted his remarks uncritically.

The chief justice’s remarks embody a triple falsehood that is routinely used by Putin’s propaganda machine to attack Western values and justify the continuation of his crackdown on civil society (under this rubric, even Stalin’s polices are seen as fully justified when depicted in the regime’s history books). ...

LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

U.S. PRESIDENT Barack Obama arrived in Mexico on Thursday for his first Latin American trip. He met with Mexican President Felipe Calderón and discussed the problem of Mexican drug cartels before leaving for Trinidad and Tobago to attend the fifth Summit of the Americas. At this summit, 33 leaders from the Americas will discuss the problems facing the region. Will Obama and Calderón be able to fix Mexico?



U.S. President Obama speaks at a banquet in Mexico City on Thursday.

RONALDO SCHEMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Taxpayers Helped Pay for Iran’s Nuclear Program

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS not only helped fund Iran’s nuclear program over the past decade, according to a recent report by the Government Accountability Office, but the State Department now “strongly opposes” diminishing the flow of U.S. money to the international agency that funneled the aid to Iran because the department fears—among other things—that doing so would “anger states in the developing world.”

The offending organization is the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Department of Technical Cooperation (TC), whose mission is to help nations develop “peaceful” applications of nuclear technology. About 25 percent of the TC’s \$80-million annual budget is provided by the U.S. State Department.

From 1997 through 2007, GAO said in a March 31 report, TC provided \$55 million in aid to four nations—Iran, Syria, Sudan and Cuba—that State lists as sponsors of terror. TC assisted Iran’s light-water nuclear reactor project at Bushehr. And its secretariat also initially approved assistance for Iran’s heavy-water nuclear reactor project at Arak, but the proposal was later aborted in the face of U.S. objections.

Iran’s heavy-water project at Arak is a more direct nuclear proliferation threat than the light-water project at Bushehr because the Arak facility would produce plutonium that could be reprocessed for use in a nuclear bomb. The Bushehr light-water reactor project, however, is itself an indirect nuclear proliferation threat. ...

State also told Congress in a 2007 report that technology transferred to Iran by the U.S.-funded TC for the Bushehr project would not have been transferred directly to Iran from the United States or its allies because of export controls that are designed to stop nuclear-weapons proliferation.

My own review of TC’s annual reports—available on the IAEA website—indicates that TC has been helping the Iranians with development of the Bushehr reactor since at least 1995. ... TC’s 2004 annual report said it had sent 99 “international experts” to Iran that year and had also trained 24 Iranian fellows and scientific visitors. ...

We will now see whether President Obama and Congress accept the State Department’s reasoning and continue to provide U.S. tax dollars to an international agency that funded Iran’s nuclear program.

INDEPENDENT, UK | April 12

New Bird Flu Cases

FIRST THE good news: Bird flu is becoming less deadly. Now the bad: Scientists fear that this is the very thing that could make the virus more able to cause a pandemic that would kill hundreds of millions of people.

This paradox—emerging from Egypt, the most recent epicenter of the disease—threatens to increase the disease's ability to spread from person to person by helping it achieve the crucial mutation in the virus which could turn it into the greatest plague ... since the Black Death. Last year the government identified the bird-flu virus, codenamed H5N1, as the biggest threat facing the country—with the potential to kill up to 750,000 Britons.

The World Health Organization is to back an investigation into a change in the pattern of the disease in Egypt, the most seriously affected country outside Asia. Although infections have been on the rise this year, with three more reported last week, they have almost all been in children under the age of 3, while 12 months ago it was mainly adults and older children who were affected. And the infections have been much milder than usual; the disease normally kills more than half of those affected; all of the 11 Egyptians so far infected this year are still alive.

Experts say that these developments make it more likely that the virus will spread. Ironically, its very virulence has provided an important safeguard. It did not get much chance to infect other people when it killed its victims swiftly, but now it has much more of a chance to mutate and be passed on. ... Even a much less virulent strain of the virus could result in a devastating pandemic. Studies show that an outbreak that killed as few as 5 percent of those it infected could still cause hundreds of millions of deaths around the world.

ANGLO-AMERICA

AMERICANS CHOSE the April 15 tax-filing deadline as an opportunity to express outrage against the federal government and its gigantic spending bills. Wednesday's rallies occurred across the nation, and were named after a 1773 protest against Britain actually *lowering taxes* on tea for the East India Company. More important than the misnomer, however, is that this event shows America is as divided as ever. Proving this fact were shockingly vulgar adverse reactions from mainstream commentators at MSNBC and CNN, including Anderson Cooper, Keith Olbermann, David Shuster and Rachel Maddow, who not only exposed their political bias, but did so using shocking vulgarity. Cooper, Shuster and the other cable news stars actually made repeated, unconcealed lewd sexual references in their deriding commentary on the protests accounting for an unprecedented literally obscene week in nationally serious journalism.

Perhaps an even more important divisive factor than American taxpayers' protests is the reaction of American states against the federal government's increasingly expanding power. An ongoing struggle that states have historically lost, the fight over states' rights versus federal power has leaped back into headlines this week after Texas Gov. Rick Perry enthusiastically backed a Texas Legislature resolution last week. The resolution rebukes Washington for violating the Bill of Rights, which says that powers not specifically assigned to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved to the states. Calling it oppression in terms of size, intrusion into personal lives and state affairs, the governor also reaffirmed what he and other governors have done—refused federal stimulus money with manipulative strings attached.

Green Shoots and Glimmers

BEN BERNANKE, the Federal Reserve chairman sees “green shoots.” President Obama sees “glimmers of hope.” And the stock market has been on a tear. So is it time to sound the all-clear? Here are four reasons to be cautious about the economic outlook.

1. Things are still getting worse. Industrial production just hit a 10-year low. Housing starts remain incredibly weak. Foreclosures, which dipped as mortgage companies waited for details of the Obama administration's housing plans, are surging again. The most you can say is that there are scattered signs that things are getting worse more slowly—that the economy isn't plunging quite as fast as it was. ...

2. Some of the good news isn't convincing. The biggest positive news in recent days has come from banks, which have been announcing surprisingly good earnings. But some of those earnings reports look a little ... funny. ... I don't want to go overboard here. Maybe the banks really have swung from deep losses to hefty profits in record time. But skepticism comes naturally in this age of Madoff. ...

3. There may be other shoes yet to drop. Even in the Great Depression, things didn't head straight down. There was, in particular, a pause in the plunge about a year and a half in—roughly where we are now. But then came a series of bank failures on both sides of the Atlantic, combined with some disastrous policy moves as countries tried to defend the dying gold standard, and the world economy fell off another cliff. ...

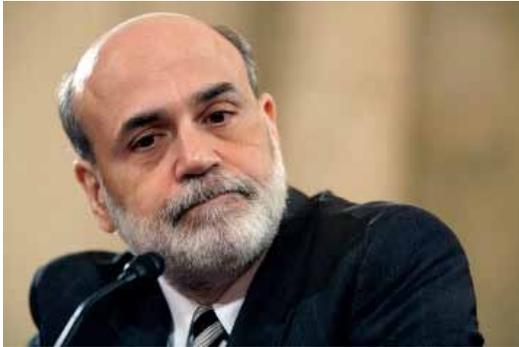
4. Even when it's over, it won't be over. The 2001 recession officially lasted only eight months, ending in November of that year. But unemployment kept rising for another year and a half. The same thing happened after the 1990-91 recession. And there's every reason to believe that it will happen this time too. Don't be surprised if unemployment keeps rising right through 2010. ...

History shows that one of the great policy dangers, in the face of a severe economic slump, is premature optimism. ... [T]here's a real risk that all the talk of green shoots and glimmers will breed a dangerous complacency. So here's my advice, to the public and policy makers alike: Don't count your recoveries before they're hatched.

THETRUMPET.COM | April 15

Moody's Might Downgrade the Whole Nation

MOODY'S INVESTORS Service has assigned a negative credit watch for all local governments across the United States. Never before has the agency issued such a blanket report on municipalities, counties, towns and school districts, an unprecedented development that underscores the severity of the nation's economic crisis.



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke suggests Congress consider giving additional assistance packages to troubled state governments.

In a special report made public on April 7, Moody's said that revenues were falling almost everywhere and that many municipalities were being dragged under by debt overload. Many local governments had used complex debt derivative products that were supposed to help lower payments, but these have actually sent debt payments soaring.

Additionally, as housing prices have declined across the country, property-tax revenue has collapsed. Job losses have also reduced local spending and the related sources of local taxes. Manufacturing, tourism and finance industries are also contracting, and governments that relied on these industries are likely to feel an extra pinch, warned Moody's. Thus, taken together, virtually every local government across the nation is in danger of having its credit rating cut.

The question soon to be facing investors and foreign creditors alike is: If so many American cities, states and local governments are considered a credit risk, how much of a credit risk is the *federal* government? The answer to that question has big implications for interest rates, the dollar, and *your* standard of living.

THETRUMPET.COM | April 14

Will Social Security Go Bankrupt in 2010?

SOCCIAL SECURITY could be bankrupt in two years. ... The current recession is wreaking havoc on the Social Security trust fund. But the real blame lies with irresponsible politicians. Instead of planning for the future—of which they had literally a generation in advance warning—politicians acted as if a severe recession would never come. Now, instead of a trust fund filled with the accumulated dollars of previous generations to cover distributions to those taxpayers, the government is left with an empty bag of holes.

The trust fund's annual surplus will all but vanish next year according to the Congressional Budget Office's most recent report. With unemployment rising, there are 5.1 million fewer workers paying into Social Security than when the recession began in December 2007.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

A Gift for Your Children

FOR THE past two summers, I've spent three months living in Jerusalem with my wife and two children. Two excursions that stand out in *my* mind are Yad Vashem and our hike through Petra. For the kids, two of the more memorable highlights were family day at the beach in Netanya and more family fun at a water park in Tiberius. No surprise there.



But I was surprised by something my 6-year-old son said last year as we were preparing to leave for Jerusalem the second time.

"Dad," he asked, "when are we going on *our date*?"

"Our date?"

"Yeah, like the one we had last year in Jerusalem," he reminded me. Our "date" had consisted of falafel for two, a 40-minute bus ride to the Jerusalem mall, an arts and crafts project, a few games at the arcade, an animated film and the return trip home.

My son surely learned more during the visit to Bible Lands Museum. His strength and endurance was tested more severely during our hike to the Monastery at Petra. But as far as memorable experiences go, for a 6-year-old boy, *five uninterrupted hours with dad ranks right at the top of the list.*

That's because children need to spend time with their parents—sometimes one-on-one time *ALONE* with Dad or Mom. For parents, time and attention are the *MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS* you can give to your children.

Think for a moment about the memories and experiences you cherish most from your childhood. If you come from a good family background, it's probably the road trips, campouts, game nights and the occasional alone time you spent with Dad or Mom.

This summer, love your children by building those same unforgettable experiences and life lessons into their upbringing. Spend time working and playing with your children. Talk to them. Make mealtimes *family* time. Plan weekly evening activities with the family. Read and study the Bible together. Pray together before bedtime.

And every once in a while, set aside special time to spend *ALONE* with each child. Of course, the bigger the family, the more challenging it is to fit "dates" into the schedule. But if you *MAKE* time for it, you will reap a fruitful harvest in return.

The Social Security collapse couldn't have come at much worse of a time for Washington. Already the government is seeking to borrow record amounts of debt from the rest of the world to finance its unprecedented stimulus packages and banking bailouts. Now, not only is the Social Security tap shutting off, but it is transforming into a major drain. ...

NEW YORK TIMES | April 14

U.S. May Drop Key Condition for Talks

THE OBAMA administration and its European allies are preparing proposals that would shift strategy toward Iran by dropping a longstanding American insistence that Tehran rapidly shut down nuclear facilities during the early phases of negotiations over its atomic program, according to officials involved in the discussions.

The proposals, exchanged in confidential strategy sessions with European allies, would press Tehran to open up its nuclear program gradually to wide-ranging inspection. But the proposals would also allow Iran to continue enriching uranium for some period during the talks. That would be a sharp break from the approach taken by the Bush administration, which had demanded that Iran halt its enrichment activities, at least briefly to initiate negotiations.

The proposals under consideration would go somewhat beyond President Obama's promise, during the presidential campaign, to open negotiations with Iran "without preconditions." Officials involved in the discussion said they were being fashioned to draw Iran into nuclear talks that it had so far shunned.

A review of Iran policy that Mr. Obama ordered after taking office is still under way, and aides say it is not clear how long he would be willing to allow Iran to continue its fuel production, and at what pace. But European officials said there was general agreement that Iran would not accept the kind of immediate shutdown of its facilities that the Bush administration had demanded. ...

If Mr. Obama signed off on the new negotiating approach, the United States and its European allies would use new negotiating sessions with

Iran to press for interim steps toward suspension of its nuclear activities, starting with allowing international inspectors into sites from which they have been barred for several years. ...

"The tragic result of such weak diplomacy is that we are moving into an era when the enemies of Western civilization simply do not fear consequences for their actions."

—Trumpet, May 2007

FOX NEWS, JUDGE ANDREW NAPOLITANO | April 15

The Homeland Security Report on 'Rightwing Extremism'

THE DEPARTMENT of Homeland Security (DHS) report entitled "Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment", dated April 7, 2009, which I have read, is apparently an unclassified summary of a

IMF Warns Over Parallels to Great Depression

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has warned of "worrisome parallels" between the current global crisis and the Great Depression, despite the unprecedented steps already taken by central banks and governments worldwide.

This recession is likely to be "unusually long and severe, and the recovery sluggish," said the Fund, releasing two advance chapters from its World Economic Outlook. However, it warned there is a risk that it could spiral down into a full-blown slump unless further action is taken to stop "feedback effects" gathering force.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, head of the IMF, said millions of people risk being pushed back into poverty as the economic storm ravages the most vulnerable countries. "The human consequences could be absolutely devastating. This is a truly global crisis, and nobody is escaping," he said.

"The free-fall in the global economy may be starting to abate, with a recovery emerging in 2010, but this depends crucially on the right policies being adopted today." Mr. Strauss-Kahn called for a urgent action to "cleanse banks" of toxic assets and for further fiscal stimulus beyond the 2 percent of global GDP already agreed. The snag is that high-debt countries may have hit the limits already. ...

The IMF said the U.S. is at the epicenter of this crisis just as it was in the Depression, setting the two episodes apart from normal downturns. However, the risks are greater this time. "While the credit boom in the 1920s was largely specific to the U.S., the boom during 2004-2007 was global, with increased leverage and risk-taking in advanced economies and many emerging economies. Levels of integration are now much higher than during the inter-war period, so U.S. financial shocks have a larger impact," it said.

The IMF said the global financial system is still under acute stress, with output tumbling and inflation falling towards zero in key nations. "The risks of debt deflation have increased," it said.

Abrupt halts in capital flows can have "dire consequences" for emerging economies, it said. Eastern Europe has already suffered the effects, with a 17.6 percent fall in industrial production in February. The region is highly vulnerable to the credit crunch since it owes more than 50 percent of its GDP to Western banks.

larger classified report.

1. The summary contains few proper names, has no footnotes of any significance, lists very few sources, and is drafted with a prejudice against anyone who criticizes the role of the federal government in our lives today. It lumps together in its definition of “rightwing extremism” hate groups, anti-government groups, and single issue groups “such as opposition to abortion or immigration.”

2. The document itself cautions the reader that the document is “not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid need-to-know without prior approval” of the DHS. ...

3. The thrust of this report is that in the present environment of economic instability, returning military veterans, those who fear of the loss of Second Amendment-protected rights, those threatened by an African-American president, and those who fear “Jewish ‘financial elites’” could all be a fertile breeding ground for groups whose power and ideas the government hates and fears. The document is essentially a warning for DHS and FBI officials to be on the look-out for rootless persons looking for the comfort of groups as they may be a danger to American security.

4. The summary (unclassified) document is terrifying. One can only imagine what is contained in the classified version. This document runs directly counter to numerous U.S. Supreme Court decisions prohibiting the government from engaging in any activities that could serve to chill the exercise of expressive liberties. Liberties are chilled, in constitutional parlance, when people are afraid to express themselves for fear of government omnipresence, monitoring, or reprisals. The document also informs the reader that Big Brother is watching both public and private behavior.

“This world will never have peace as long as it remains in the clutches of carnal human governments. It speaks evil of what it doesn’t understand. It doesn’t know God or understand His government. Only the government of God can save us.”

—The Epistles of Peter

5. The whole purpose of the First Amendment is to guarantee open, broad, robust debate on the policies and personnel of the government. The First Amendment presumes that individuals—NOT THE GOVERNMENT—are free to choose what they believe

and espouse, what they read and say, and with whom they associate in public and in private. The writers of this abominable report are particularly concerned with the expression of opinions that might be used to fuel ideas that challenge federal authority or favor state and local government over the federal government. ...

6. My guess is that the sentiments revealed in the report I read are the tip of an iceberg that the DHS would prefer to keep submerged until it needs to reveal it. This iceberg is the heavy-hand of government; a government with large and awful eyes, in whose heart there is no love for freedom, and on whose face there is no smile.

DAILY MAIL, UK | April 16

More Young Women Having Children Than Getting Married

BABIES NOW come before marriage for a majority of young women, an official analysis said yesterday. For the first time, women under 25 are more likely to become mothers before they consider marrying. The findings point to a future in which the majority of chil-

Hiroshima, 2.0

“GENTLEMEN,” HENRY Stimson once said, “don’t read each other’s mail.” Neither do gentlemen hack into each other’s computers, electric grids, military networks and other critical infrastructure. Ours is not a world of gentlemen. ...

I am referring to Siobhan Gorman’s front-page story in last Wednesday’s *Journal*, in which she reported widespread cyberspying of the U.S. electricity grid, much of it apparently originating in China and Russia. “Authorities investigating the intrusions,” Ms. Gorman reported, “have found software tools left behind that could be used to destroy infrastructure components.” A senior intelligence official told the *Journal* that, “If we go to war with them, they will try to turn them on.”

To get a better sense of what all this is about, type the words “Cyber attack” and “generator” into YouTube. The first result should be a short clip from the Department of Homeland Security ... showing an electric generator under a simulated cyberattack at the Idaho National Laboratory. Within seconds the generator begins to shake violently. Within a minute, it’s up in smoke.

Now imagine the attack being conducted against 60 large generators, simultaneously. Imagine, too, similar attacks against chemical plants, causing Bhopal-style toxic leaks. Imagine malicious software codes planted in U.S. weapons systems, which could lie undetected until triggered by a set of conditions similar to mobilization.

“It’s as though we’ve entered something like the nuclear era without a Hiroshima,” says Scott Borg, director and chief economist of the U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit “People aren’t aware that everything has changed.” Today, the general perception of cyberattacks is that they amount to so much mischief-making by bored and spiteful 20-year-old computer geeks. ... Think again. ...

“If you shut down power for about three days,” he says, “it causes very little damage. We can handle a long weekend. But if you shut down power for longer, all kinds of other things begin to happen. After about 10 days the curve levels off with about 72 percent of all economic activity shut down. You don’t have air conditioning in the summer; you don’t have heating in the winter. Thousands of people die.”...

Plainly, we have a problem. And as we consider ever-more elaborate defenses for our vulnerable networks, here’s a modest suggestion: Gently alert our non-NATO “partners” that we might be in their electricity grids, too.

dren will be born to unmarried parents

Until the present decade, more women have been married before the age of 25 than have become mothers. ...

But the breakdown, taken from surveys conducted by the [Office for National Statistics] six or seven years ago, found that the picture has reversed for more recent generations. ...

The latest figures on births and marriage show that around 45 percent of children are born to unmarried mothers. Unmarried births are likely to be the majority within a decade. Already more than half of all conceptions—56 percent—are outside marriage. ...



Women under 25 are more likely to become mothers before they consider marrying.

ENGINEERING from page 1

other things—of growing up under the same roof with both biological parents. In other words, societal stability directly depends on the greatest number of children possible growing up in a home with both a father and a mother to whom they are biologically related.

Marriage is the most effective way of guaranteeing children grow up in this favorable environment. For the sake of our children and our society, we should be doing all we can to promote stable marriages—in the true sense of the term. (Read *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* to understand the profound spiritual underpinnings of this wondrous institution.)

However, under an onslaught of no-fault divorce and other anti-family pressures, marriages are falling apart at alarming rates. In just the past few generations, every millennia-long tradition regarding marriage—all of which, it should be mentioned, were based on God-ordained laws—has been challenged: the respective roles of husband as guide and provider, and wife as helpmeet and homemaker; the importance of abstaining from sex outside of marriage; the authority of parents over their children. As these principles were contested, a negative cycle began. Rejection of these principles produced bad marriages and fueled the tendency to question the institution's fundamental nature. The result was a general, misguided dissatisfaction with marriage itself and an inevitable lack of appreciation for and understanding of it. The current dispute over the very idea of marriage involving one man and one woman is a measure of just how deep this misunderstanding has grown.

The legitimization of homosexual unions—as the jewel in the crown of a host of initiatives aimed at drawing more and more people into the homosexual lifestyle—is moving 180 degrees opposite the family stability we desperately need to be encouraging. This promotion of personal license over the broader interests of society is a deadly error.

In this week's *Key of David* program, Gerald Flurry speaks on the radical changes we are witnessing in mainstream attitudes toward sex. He shows how these changes were prophesied in, of all places, the New Testament *epistle of Jude*. Watch the program and, especially, read the booklet. It's likely the strongest warning you will ever hear on this tremendously crucial subject.

Make no mistake: This is radical social engineering. We all need to understand exactly where it will lead.

A Summer of Rage?

AMERICANS ARE the most heavily-armed people in the world. They are also probably the most heavily doped, drugged and indebted. With the economy breaking down, could an explosive cocktail be brewing.



According to Trends Research Institute CEO Gerald Celente, yes, and soon—and riots are not the only issue Americans will have on their hands. Celente says to expect food riots, squatter rebellions, tax revolts and job marches by 2012. "America's going to go through a transition the likes of which no one is prepared for," he said.

Trader Tracks Newsletter analyst Roger Wiegand agrees. He says social problems from massive unemployment will cause higher crime rates. Single mothers, children, elderly and others will go hungry. National government disaster planners will not be able to cope with problems far beyond the scale of hurricane Katrina. In response to public demonstrations, food riots and escalation of crime, federal troops will be called out and martial law implemented in the worst-case cities. The right-wing militias will be joined by other put-upon groups in fighting with these troops. With so many weapons throughout America, this is going to be ongoing and deadly.

There is evidence that the U.S. government thinks the possibility of widespread internal turmoil is a real possibility and is developing a military contingency plan. On Sept. 30, 2008, the *Army Times* reported that Army troops returning from Iraq were now being trained in America "as an on-call federal response force for natural or man-made emergencies and disasters," and may be "called upon to help with civil unrest and crowd control." As of the end of 2008, 20,000 troops had been earmarked for deployment within the U.S., the *Washington Post* reported.

Celente warns, "The 'Panic of '08' will be followed by 'The Collapse of '09.'" Will today's economic breakdown be the match that ignites the social Molotov cocktail?

As the economy deteriorates, social pressures are bound to increase. Is chaos in American cities about to become a common sight? Read the chapter "Terrorism and Race Riots" from Gerald Flurry's booklet *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet* to understand how the Bible says terrorism and race riots are looming—for America.