



JAY
AMBROSE

Why a great spy for America is no longer spying

It's scarcely over yet, this effort to grab President Donald Trump around the head for things that weren't his fault, drag him through the mud and say, there, we've got him now. That seems pretty much what happened when a CNN reporter incorrectly told us Trump was responsible for our greatest spy in Russia being out of Russia. Government insiders played a role in this, too, themselves just maybe breaking the law, and you wonder if this is the new America.

This story begins with another story, one written by CNN's national security correspondent, Jim Sciutto, who had previously worked in the Obama administration. His subject was a spy in Russia who had served America for a decade or more and had such close contact with Russian President Vladimir Putin that he could convey what was on the top of his desk. This Kremlin official is the person who told our own intelligence agencies that Putin had himself ordered efforts to help elect Trump president, Sciutto said. Five sources in intelligence agencies, Congress and elsewhere in government told him so by way of classified information.

The scary thing in the tale, Sciutto said, was that the CIA figured it had to sneak him out of Russia despite his incredible importance, his role over the years of letting us know what was really, truly going on behind the scenes in a country forever trying to undermine us in any way it could. The reason was Trump's carelessness with security secrets, according to the newsman, who told us the CIA acted in 2017 and the spy is now in the United States. As others in the know also tell us, it could take years to replace him, assuming that happens.

There's a problem here, however: namely that the CIA decision was made in 2016 before Trump was elected president and that the rescue would have occurred then if the spy had not been so reluctant to leave his home country. This business about Trump is "simply false," says the CIA, and The New York Times has explained that agency's concerns were actually intense reporter scrutiny of the detailed report on Putin's election interference.

Eventually, it was felt, the Russians would see that there was a conniver aboard their ship. If they searched enough, they'd probably come to the right conclusion and kill him.

Other experts on intelligence gathering agree this was a hit on national security, but it's hardly something new. From the moment Trump was elected we've had excessive speculation about his criminality, often through leaks themselves defined as illegal by statute and including "revelations" that weren't up to the word's definition. The worst of it was a two-year, multimillion dollar investigation that interfered mightily with the Trump administration in the absence of any proof of collusion with Russia. We still have unending impeachment talk even while probes in the other direction just may bite harder for some of those who have tried to overturn a legal presidential election.

None of this means Trump has never been careless with national security information, has never exhibited a brain frighteningly scattered and has never bungled a policy. But why not limit criticisms to his real screw-ups instead of making stuff up or at least putting aside old norms and seeing the end of his power as justifying means that threaten our democratic principles? Political bias characterized as truth-seeking is sadly playing more and more a role in some news reporting, and secret government informants are more and more betraying America.

(Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.)

TODAY'S INSPIRATION

"With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world."

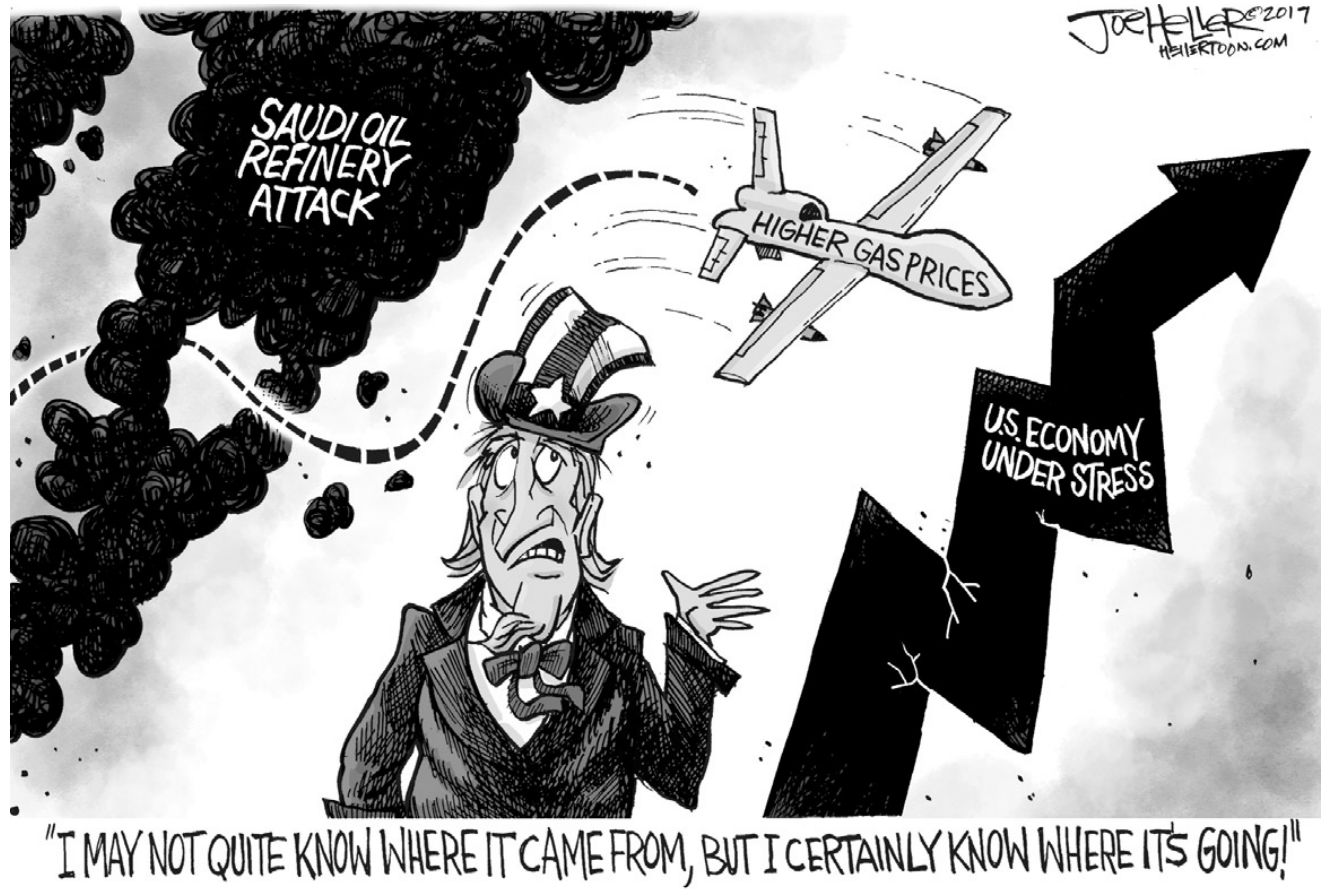
— Dalai Lama

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Send letters to: Editor, The Freeman, P.O. Box 7, Waukesha, WI 53187. Or email: letters@conley.net.

FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives the press the right to publish news, information and opinions without government interference. This also means people have the right to publish their own newspapers, newsletters, magazines, etc.



GUEST OPINION

Local cooperation needed for Waukesha water

Minooka Park deemed best site for pumping station

By Joe Pieper

The city of Waukesha has embarked on one of the largest public works projects in state history to safely transport Lake Michigan water from Milwaukee to Waukesha and return it to the lake. I have served on the Waukesha City Council for 13 years and have worked alongside my colleagues and staff to ensure that our residents and those neighbors that are utility customers have safe drinking water for generations. Our project will also benefit regional aquifers, as well as the streams, lakes and wetlands they connect to.

To do this, though, we need the assistance and cooperation of our neighbors. The city and Water Utility have worked in good faith with our neighbors for years now to determine a pipeline route that respects the environment and neighbors and has the lowest impact on both. This has been our highest priority — but we know we will never make everyone happy.

We need to have storage reservoirs and a pumping station at Minooka Park in New Berlin. We have worked with the county and the city of New Berlin to select a site at the corner of Swartz Road and Racine Avenue. This site has the fewest number of homes within 1,000 feet of the sites we considered. Moreover, it has the low elevation that further reduces the minor sound and visual impacts. No lighting from the site will face the sky or the

neighbors. Also, using this site requires the removal of zero trees — a positive environmental impact. This site would not impact any users of the park and would not require the relocation of any park amenities or elements. The county agrees that this is the best site and included this use of it in the comprehensive plan for Minooka Park. This site truly "saves the park" for those that enjoy it today.

The 9-acre site will house water reservoirs and a pumping station that simply boosts the pressure of the water coming from Milwaukee into Waukesha's system. It is not a well, it is not a treatment facility, it is water reservoirs and a pumping station that will have zero impact on neighbors' wells. In fact, one of the factors for picking it was the lack of impacts on wetlands or private wells. Moreover, the park has a total of 594 acres — our site has a very small footprint relative to the park.

It will not be noisy — there will be a generator that will need to be tested and run for 30 minutes once a week at a time determined with the city of New Berlin. We have worked in good faith to ensure the construction will not impact popular events in New Berlin. Any roads impacted will be restored at the utility's expense. Plus, by having the pipeline there it may provide a redundant water supply for the eastern half of New Berlin. We have also offered to provide an additional connection to a fiber optic net-

work that provides internet access for the city of New Berlin governmental entities.

My ask is simple: If you live in New Berlin, encourage your mayor and City Council to trust the science, the research, the experts and the rigorous process we have gone through to make this project a reality. We are good neighbors and we need your help. Thank you.

(Joe Pieper is alderman for Waukesha's 4th District.)



SOUND OFF

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Minooka Park water station will have minimal impact

To the editor:

I grew up on Milwaukee water and have been a strong supporter of Waukesha's application and process for this critical community access. We do not have a sustainable water supply in the city and need this new source for the health of the current and future residents of this city.

Through this process I have been impressed with the city's open communication and collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, the states and provinces who approved the application and with the local communities impacted by our need for a new water source. That is why I was so surprised by a letter headlined in the Freeman on Sept. 13 that read "New Berlin a loser in Waukesha Water deal." What happened to the collaboration with New Berlin, who already has Milwaukee water as their source?

I believe that the location of this

pumping station has been vetted and is the best, most economical, and minimally impactful environmental location for it as well as the LEAST disruptive to the residents near the location. From what I understand, there is no resident that is within 500 feet of the site and 11 within 1,000 feet. I understand their concerns, but any impacts should be short-term and minimized as much as possible by the commitment of the city to this project and the people impacted. To the residents of New Berlin, thank you, in advance, for your patience and understanding as this project continues.

The concern about Minooka Park has also been addressed despite the author's interpretation of the park's comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan. The plan is a guide and for this decision the area that the city of Waukesha needs was vetted and approved by the county and is considered minimally impactful on the park's land use. That is why it was included by the county itself in that comprehensive plan for the park. No trees will need to be cut and additional trees will be planted to screen the site. In fact, this site was chosen

because of its lack of impact on trees, wells and wetlands.

To New Berlin, who is already benefiting from Milwaukee water, please understand that you are a partner and winner if you collaborate and approve this parcel for our project. Let's look at this as regional cooperation and the right thing to do!

Mary Baer
Waukesha

Thanks for the flowers

To the editor:

As the warm weather is coming to an end, I would like to thank those responsible for the beautiful flower plantings that adorn the Waukesha downtown area. It has been such a pleasure to drive through town and enjoy the numerous planters of bright begonias. They have made it a joy to behold and a project we have come to look forward to year after year.

Thanks to the Waukesha Garden Club and the city for initiating the project.

Marilyn Baus
Waukesha

Open Meetings & Open Records Law

Section 19.31, Wisconsin Statutes

"In recognition of the fact that a representative government of the American type is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be the public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them.

"Further, providing persons with such information is declared to be an essential function of representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of officers and employees whose responsibility it is to provide such information."

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