

Truth Matters NP

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Trump Bans N Y Times and Washington Post

When it was announced that Trump has declared that all federal agencies must cancel their subscriptions to the New York Times and the Washington Post, I was reminded of a book I read in 1966: **Fahrenheit 451**. The book by Ray Bradbury, published in 1953, presents a future American society where books are outlawed and firemen exist to burn any found. Bradbury, at the time said he wrote the book during the McCarthy era because of his concern that there was a threat that book burning might begin in the United States. The plot of the book centers around a single character, Montag, a fireman who questions his role in burning books when they are discovered. The world he lives in depends on walls of mass media which numb the population to prevent them from independent thought or questioning of authority. While the book is obviously more complex than my brief description, it does capture the essence. Interesting that the warnings of books like **Fahrenheit 451, 1984, Animal Farm** and more seem to crop up from time to time based on the realities we find ourselves experiencing. Perpetual war, censorship, discrimination, hate, and divisiveness, to name a few. The action of the administration in banning certain publications should be a warning sign, reminding us of the lessons and truths we find in our literature, our press and our desire to seek wisdom. I frequently use the phrase "We will not be silent" in discussing my writings and causes. This is one time when the phrase has particular meaning for all of us. Read, keep informed, keep active and most of all do NOT BE SILENT!



Borough Council Refuses Citizen Input

On the agenda of the October 28th meeting of the New Providence Borough Council were two letters requesting that the Council consider a discussion of the issue of single use plastic bag waste. One of the letters was mine.

The council was asked to consider providing an opportunity for citizens and business owners of New Providence to provide input on the issue of elimination of single-use plastic bags. Both letters pointed out that other towns in the area have recently voted to eliminate single use plastic bags. Those towns include, Chatham, Chatham Township, and Madison. Millburn and Summit are slated to introduce and vote on plastic bag bans very soon. In the past, Mayor Al Morgan has stated that the council takes the view that local bag bans are not practical, and we should take a regional approach or wait for the state to ban bags. It was pointed out that all but one town surrounding New Providence have or will have bag bans in place soon. Also, that we should not allow outside organizations to impose their positions on New Providence, rather we should take a position best for New Providence and attempt to influence those at higher levels of government to take a position acceptable to New Providence. While not taking a specific position the Mayor and council did not present any plan for how they would approach the issue.

For more information regarding the above:

<https://lookingleftnj.com> Complete letter to NP Council and list of towns in NJ with or considering bag bans.

<https://newprov.org> Under "Forms and documents" look for "Videos" and "Borough Council Meetings".

October 28, 2019

Trump, Master of the *ad hominem* Attack

Donald Trump and his supporters and minions represent the best example of the use of *ad hominem* arguments. An *ad hominem* argument comes from the Latin “to the man”. It is an attack which does not address the content or facts regarding an issue, it is an attack on the messenger who has delivered the information. The use of this type of response to those who present facts related to Trump’s misdeeds is very well documented.

The most recent example of the use of such a technique is the attack on Lt. Col Alexander Vindman. By all accounts, even from Republicans, Lt. Col. Vindman is an upstanding patriotic, combat veteran, wounded during his service, who has factual first-hand information regarding the dreaded phone call from Trump to Ukrainian President, Zelensky. Rather than address the damaging accounts presented by Vindman, Trump and his supporters have dubbed him a spy, and Trump himself referred to Vindman as a “Never Trumper”. This is an *ad hominem* attack if I ever heard one.



. Speed Signs on Mountain Avenue

You’ve seen the flashing speed signs on many streets throughout the country. In New Providence the most prominent sign is located on South Street traveling toward downtown from Mountain Avenue. Look for two more signs on Mountain Avenue itself before long. Residents along Mountain Avenue have long complained about the excessive speed of vehicles on the road. Their protests led to a reduction of the speed limit from 45MPH to 35MPH. At the October 28th meeting of the Borough Council, Doug Marvin, Borough Administrator, announced two more signs will be going up on Mountain Avenue. When asked on October 29, Mr. Marvin indicated that the police department will determine the specific locations based on traffic impact and availability of adequate sun to power the solar batteries.



A lesson in Truth Matters

National Geographic and others report that the average person in the USA uses 150 plastic bags a year. That means a town of 14,000, approximately the size of New Providence, uses 2,100,000 single-use plastic bags in a year. Across NJ that figure reaches 1.3 billion bags.

I lied. The estimated bag usage per individual is over twice the figure I mentioned above, making the figure for New Providence over 4.2 million bags and the state over 2.5 billion. Always look for the truth. **IT MATTERS!**

If you find the information in the newsletter informative or interesting, I invite you to pass it on. If you are seeing the newsletter for the first time and you would like to receive future issues, send your email address to lookingleftnj@gmail.com. You can be assured that I will not be sharing your address with anyone. Comments are also welcome.

Truth Matters NP is edited by Allen Swanson. All content unless otherwise indicated was written by Allen Swanson. The newsletter is associated with the web site lookingleftnj.com. Email comments, questions, suggestions to: lookingleftnj@gmail.com.