

Our View

Thwart leakers with Mueller report release

We believe the Mueller Report on Russian interference in our 2016 election should be made public; at least, as much as can be responsibly released without affecting national security or interfering with other investigations. We've said before it is our right to know what's in the report, and besides, we the taxpayers paid for it.

Another reason came out last week. According to unnamed sources within the Mueller investigation team, the four-page summary issued by Attorney General William Barr doesn't give an accurate summary of the information contained in the report, especially about the information concerning possible obstruction of justice by the White House. The 300-page report, says the source, contains much more damaging information about the president than Barr let on in his summation. President Donald Trump is using this summation to proclaim his total exoneration.

The only way to judge whether Barr or the leaker is telling the truth is to release the report. Let the truth come out.

Other Editors

Tone is better but progress is slow at Capitol

Nearly halfway through Minnesota's legislative session is a good time to assess progress (or its lack) in the only divided state government in the country.

The report is decidedly mixed. On the plus side, DFL Gov. Tim Walz, Republican Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka and DFL House Speaker Melissa Hortman have worked at building relationships behind the scenes, where it counts. They have mostly given one another space to define their roles with one another and their constituencies and to build a different, far less rancorous dynamic than in years past. Hortman said she and Gazelka still meet weekly. Gazelka brought his daughter to a recent breakfast at the governor's residence. All three regularly pass up opportunities to take public shots at one another.

That kind of effort and restraint is undervalued in politics these days, but is some of the hardest work leaders from opposing parties can do. Grandstanding is much easier. It grabs headlines and satisfies the extreme parts of the base. But it does little to advance the difficult task of joint governance.

That's also not to say these leaders won't clash. They have vastly opposite agendas, with few areas of natural agreement.

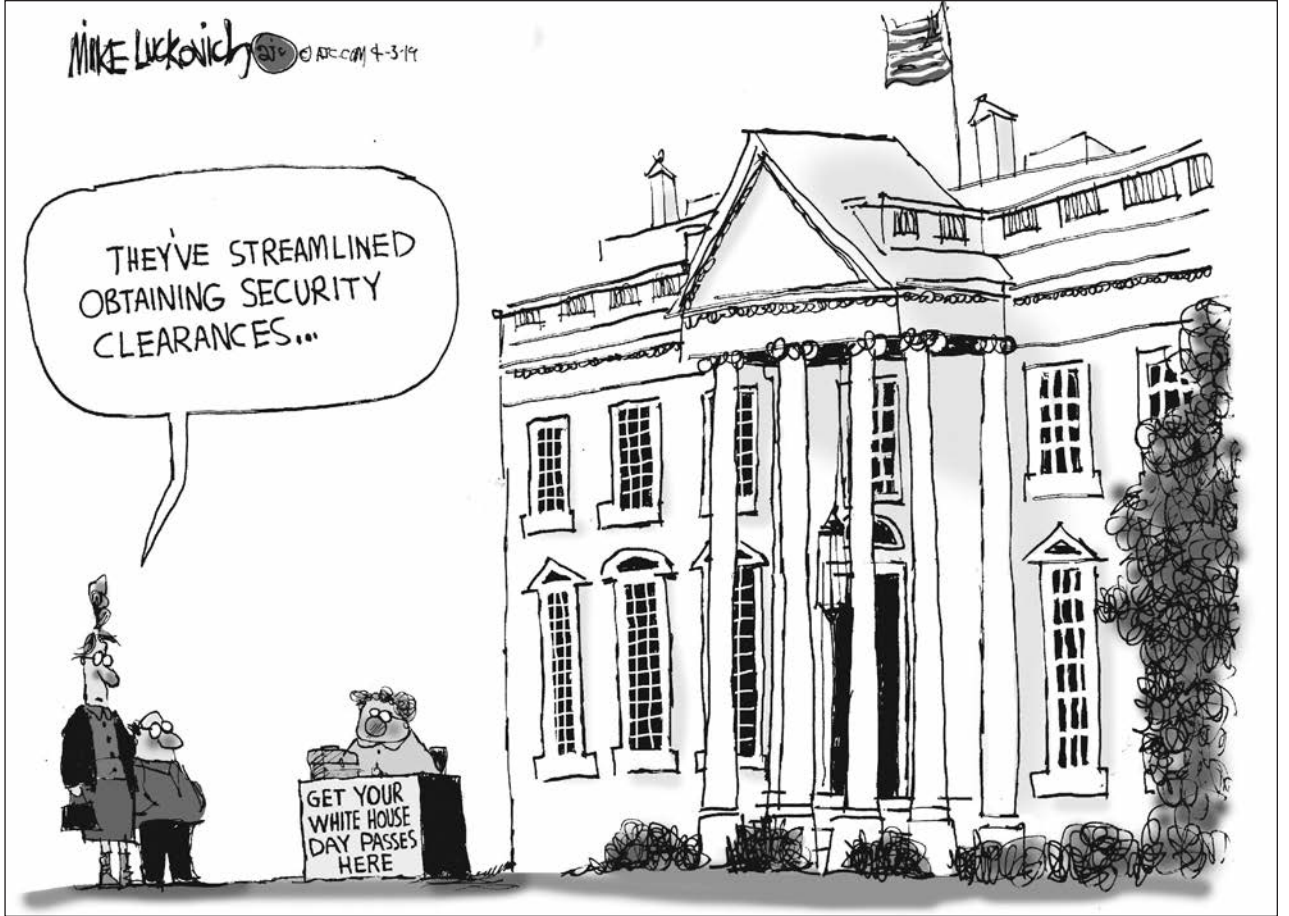
And that's what could spell trouble for this session. Comity only goes so far, and words have not always matched actions. The GOP Senate declared most major elements of the Walz agenda dead on arrival, from his transportation package with its 20-cent gas tax increase, to his revamping of health care, his bonding bill for infrastructure, the 2050 climate change plan, and so on. Notably, not only did GOP senators decline to carry the governor's bills — once a fairly typical courtesy — but committee chairs would not hold hearings on them, effectively shutting down the debate needed for thoughtful compromise at the end. The Senate's continued stalling on Minnesota's federal election security funds, making this state the last in the nation to use that money, is indefensible and should end promptly.

There are some good signs, too. After talking with Walz, Gazelka earlier this week asked his chairs to begin hearing the governor's bills. That was the right thing to do. Senators are free to debate, amend and even defeat those proposals. But don't ignore them. That does a disservice to Minnesotans who want to see those ideas pressure-tested. But it shouldn't have taken nearly half the session. Walz is within his rights to wonder if the other side is simply "running out the clock," as he put it at a news conference earlier this week.

Fortunately, there is time to work out even major differences. The elements of compromise are there, and away from the cameras and lights, will be discussed. Hortman said she remains optimistic because "we've all accepted the concept that everyone has to have wins out of this. This doesn't end with the blue team winning everything or the red team winning everything."

There is much work to be done between now and a scheduled adjournment of May 20. A 10-day recess that starts in mid-April will further compress the timeline. Minnesotans should use that time to put legislators on notice that they expect real progress and a timely finish.

— Minneapolis Star Tribune

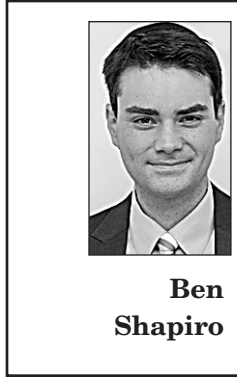


When you don't appreciate your civilization

By Ben Shapiro

Last week, former Vice President Joe Biden spoke at the Biden Courage Awards ceremony in preparation for his presidential campaign launch. There, in an attempt to forestall claims that as a white man, he simply isn't intersectional enough to compete in the Democratic primaries, he critiqued a central pillar of Western civilization as inherently racist. "Back in the late 1300s, so many women were dying at the hands of their husbands because they were chattel, just like the cattle, or the sheep, that the court of common law decided they had to do something about the extent of the deaths," Biden fibbed. "So you know what they said? No man has a right to chastise his woman with a rod thicker than the circumference of his thumb. This is English jurisprudential culture, a white man's culture. It's got to change. It's got to change."

Biden's take was, as always, historically illiterate. The "rule of thumb" story has been circulating for years — and it has been repeatedly debunked. There was no "rule of thumb," as feminist scholar Christina Hoff Sommers points out. "On the contrary," she writes, "British law since the 1700s and our American laws predating the Revolution prohibit wife beating." In actuality, the phrase originated in craftsmen so ex-



pert that they could perform tasks without precise measuring tools.

More importantly, however, Biden's characterization of "English jurisprudential culture" as "white man's culture" is profoundly disturbing. English jurisprudential culture is rooted in the belief in the rule of law, due process of law, equal rights under law; English jurisprudential culture is responsible for preserving the natural rights we hold dear, rights which were imperfectly but increasingly extended over time to more and more human beings, particularly minorities. No less a leftist figure than Barack Obama explained just that in 2009, saying he sought a system at Guantanamo Bay that "adheres to the rule of law, habeas corpus, basic principles of Anglo-American legal system."

Protection of individual rights — and in particular, minority rights — lies at the heart of English jurisprudence. Yet Biden boiled down those rights to racial privilege. And the attempt to reduce the fundamental prin-

ciples of our civilization to a mask for racial hierarchical power is both false and frightening. It suggests that those principles ought to be undermined for purposes of disestablishing that supposed hierarchy. Get rid of English jurisprudential law, presumably, in order to fight racism.

Ironically, reduction of Western civilization to racial supremacy isn't just a strategy of the intersectional left; it's a strategy of the despicable alt-right, which champions Western civilization as white civilization and then seeks to rip away the universalism of its principles from nonwhite people. Thus, the very term "Western civilization" is under assault by a variety of political forces seeking to tear out eternal truths and natural rights in the name of tribalism.

But that's not what Western civilization is about at all. Western civilization was built on Judeo-Christian values and Greek reason, culminating in a perspective on natural rights that is preserved by institutions like English jurisprudence. It is thanks to those philosophical principles that free markets, free speech and free association have grown and flourished. Only if we re-enshrine those principles, rather than undermine them, will our prosperity and freedoms be preserved.

©2019 CREATORS.COM

Political Directory

NEW ULM CITY COUNCIL
Mayor: Robert Beussman, 500 South State St., 354-8660
Council President: Charles Schmitz, 923 South Franklin, New Ulm, 354-2064
First Ward: Dave Christian, 401 South Front Street, New Ulm, 507-354-1446
Second Ward: Lisa K. Fischer, 2600 Hoffman Road, New Ulm, 359-9666
Third Ward: Les Schultz, 1437 Heinenhill, 354-2090
Fourth Ward: Larry Mack, 20 Camelsback Road, 354-2641
DISTRICT 88 SCHOOL BOARD
Christie Dewanz, 15135 Co Rd 102, New Ulm, 507-240-0914, E-mail: cde-wanz@newulm12.mn.us
Steven Gag, 359-7597, 1117 N Franklin St, New Ulm. E-mail: sgag@newulm.k12.mn.us
Amanda Groebner, 354-0022, 1414 Oak Street, New Ulm, E-mail: agroeb-ner@newulm.k12.mn.us
Matt Ringhofer, 359-9572, 213 S Washington St., New Ulm, (507) 359-9572, E-mail: mringhofer@newulm.k12.mn.us
Johnathan Schiro, 608 S Jefferson St., New Ulm, (507) 276-4490. E-mail: jschiro@newulm12.mn.us

Melissa Sunderman, 354-1524, 1524 Elmwood Ave., New Ulm. E-mail: msunderman@newulm12.mn.us
Denny Waloch, 276-6049, 713 6th South St., New Ulm. Email: dwaloch@newulm12.mn.us
BROWN COUNTY BOARD
1st Dist. — Dave Borchert, 405 S. Broadway, New Ulm, 354-3295
2nd Dist. — Anton Berg, 20218 195th Av, New Ulm, 359-7844
3rd Dist. — Scott Windschitl, 10 Doris Drive, New Ulm, 359-1995.
4th Dist. — Dean Simonsen, 28711 310th Ave., Sleepy Eye, 794-3326.
5th Dist. — Jeffrey Veerkamp, 205 East George St, Comfrey, (507) 920-3411.
MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
District 16
Sen. Gary H. Dahms, Redwood Falls, (R-16), Room 2111, Minnesota Senate Bldg., R. St. Paul MN 55155. (651)-296-8138, e-mail: sen.gary.dahms@senate.mn.
Rep. Chris Swedzinski, Ghent (R-16A) 245 State Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155. Tel. 651-296-5374 or 888-234-1242, email: rep.chris.swedzinski@house.mn
Rep. Paul Torkelson, Hanska, (R-16B), 251 State Office Building, Saint

Paul, MN 55155, tel. 651-296-9303 or 888-727-3891 e-mail: rep.paul.torkelson@house.mn
District 19
Sen. Nick A. Frenztz, Mankato, (DFL-19), Room 2415, Minnesota Senate Bldg., Tel. 651-296-6153, E-mail: sen.nick.frenztz@senate.mn
Rep. Jeff Brand, St. Peter (DFL-19A), 501 State Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-7065; E-mail: rep.jeff.brand@house.mn
Rep. John (Jack) Considine Jr. (19B, DFL), 433 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155, Tel. 651-296-3248, Email: rep.jack.considine@house.mn
U.S. HOUSE
First District: Rep. Jim Hagedorn (R-MN-1), 325 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Phone: (202) 225-2472.
U.S. SENATE
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), 302 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244. Contact: www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/contact-amy.
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN), 309 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-5641. www.smith.senate.gov/content/contact-senator

What's on your mind?

What do you think of the proposed 20 cents-per-gallon gas tax increase?



Amy Bloedel, New Ulm: "I'm for it as long as the money supports roads."



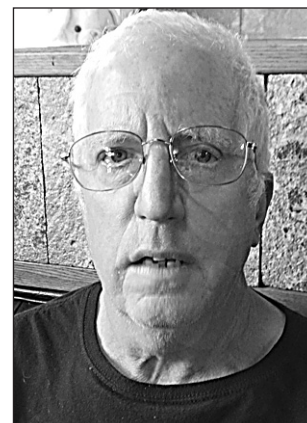
Herb Knutson, New Ulm: "I don't like it."



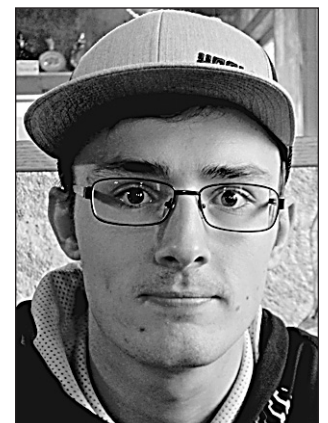
Cody Gent, New Ulm: "No, I wish it was 1980."



Faith Palmer, New Ulm: "I don't like it. We're already taxed quite a bit."



Steve Reynolds, Casper, Wyo.: "Oh my God. Don't they have a bunch of taxes already? There are lots of sin taxes in Minnesota too."



Dan Cooper, Sleepy Eye: "I think it's a bad idea. There are probably other ways to come up with the money."