

# FROM ONE HILL TO ANOTHER

Corvallis, Montana

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## Our "Unsolicited" State of the Union

By Gary and Joan Carlson

Article II, Section 3 of the US Constitution reads as follows: "He [referring to the President] shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper....United States."

Thanks to Nancy Pelosi's juvenile behavior, President Trump has been "uninvited" to the House of Representatives to give his State of the Union address to the entire US Congress and the American people. Whether or not President Trump proceeds to make

his address with or without Pelosi's blessings, the *White Hat Express* has taken the challenge upon itself to come up with its own "Unsolicited State of the Union." So, with that, the following list addresses five major issues and the grade, good or bad, we feel each deserves:

### Issue #1: The US

**Economy:** The economy deserves a grade of A+ under the Trump Administration. Both retail sales and construction are better than they have been for several years. Unemployment is setting record lows, including more jobs for minorities and young employees.

### Issue #2: Foreign

**Policy:** We give the administration an A for President Trump's attempts to stabilize relations with North Korea. Prior to Trump's inauguration, North Korea was test firing ballistic missiles and making threats against Japan and the United States. Negotiations are now underway. We enthusiastically give an A+ with the US Embassy move from Tell Aviv to Jerusalem, Israel. And, finally, an overall grade of A is warranted

regarding NATO, China, Russia, and European trade. The results of Trump's trade deals will take a little longer to assess, but the final outcome should prove to be positive for the United States. Anytime we lose even one American military service member, it is a time of tragedy for the family and must be considered a major loss for our country. Therefore, with regard to ISIS, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen and Turkey, at this time, we must give an incomplete grade. There is still a long way to go before an A is warranted.

### Issue #3: Education in

**America:** At all levels of education in America, from kindergarten to the college and university levels, a mixed bag of grades is justified. Technology has played a very positive role in education opening many new opportunities for students attending technical/trade schools. Real jobs await those who take advantage of such training. But, unfortunately, now teachers' unions and liberal politicians so often drive the engine in the choice of curriculum and school activities. The emphasis in the classroom has changed

from educating to indoctrinating and conforming to a politically correct agenda. A recent example would be Vice President Pence's wife receiving public criticism for teaching in a Christian elementary school because of its biblical standards. Something is definitely wrong with this scenario. Social media and political correctness have played such a prominent part in public schools and colleges today that very few deserve a passing grade.

**Issue #4: Immigration:** For years the United States has been considered the #1 nation in the world when it comes to enthusiastically welcoming legal immigrants into our country. Over 700,000 legal immigrants are sworn in as brand new citizens each year. Considered the "melting pot" for all, America deserves an A+ regarding legal immigration. But, how well we know the operative word is "Legal" when it comes to immigration. The influx of illegal immigrants each year, and the caravans currently converging upon our Southern Border have created an imminent crisis for our country. This situation has become a national security



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risk. Watching illegals "march" toward our border waving flags from Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico, doesn't give one the impression that they are coming to assimilate into our culture, learn the language and become Americans. Isn't it true that when a large group crosses ones' border waving foreign flags, it is commonly looked upon as an invasion? Not only do they come uninvited, they demand citizenship, benefits, free health care, free education, and even the right to vote. Such behavior could be considered an act of war, if they were wearing uniforms. The need to secure our Southern Border, and deal with all the problems illegal immigration entails, Americans must consider this issue one of paramount importance. Now more than ever, our sovereignty is at stake. Because of that, we implore the Democrats to do their job; either accept President Trump's proposal and then re-open the federal government, or be adult enough to come to the table and negotiate. At this point, Nancy Pelosi and the House Democrats deserve an F.

## Issue #5: Domestic/State Related

**Issues:** Unfortunately, this area of concern doesn't seem to paint a very pretty picture. As we look at crime, attacks on law enforcement personnel, school shootings, drugs, immorality, lowered standards of decency, broken families, abortions, and the manner in which all these topics dominate social media and the evening news, one can become a bit overwhelmed. Christianity and churches have been under attack. According to LifeWay Research Center, 78% of

young people are either leaving their churches or are not attending any church at all. So, when taking an honest look at "the state of the union" when it comes to our "character" as a nation, we deserve a D- at best. Unfortunately prosperity, self-interests, busy work schedules, and preoccupation with sports, we too often forget from where our source of true meaning and value as individuals and as a nation come. President John Adams said it well: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." The good people of America need to be reminded of that fact. "America has veered sharply from the course chartered by such men as Bradford, Winthrop, Hooker, Edwards, Whitefield, Adams Otis, Madison, Jefferson and Washington. Even the intellectual centers of secular humanism have noticed that America has lost its moral bearings." (Ref: Faith & Freedom by Ben Hart, page 365)

Since before he was elected, President Trump has been fighting the battle to *make America great again*, single handedly. Even members of the Republican Party too often have backed away from providing their support to stand against the constant bombardment of criticism and verbal attacks from the media and liberal elements of our society.

In order to restore America, leaders within the federal government must focus on their original duty to govern. In the United States, the primary responsibility of the government, its leaders and

elected officials is to protect the American people. According to the Declaration they are "to secure our rights - our natural rights and the rights we create as we live our lives." The powers of government must be derived from our consent if they are to be just. (Ref: Preface to the Constitution by the Cato Institute.) Knowing that our federal government primarily exists for one purpose, we must see to it that our elected officials do their job. Therefore, "We the people" must also accept our responsibility to participate in the workings of a free society. Freedom is easily lost if not handled with care and properly nurtured by those who enjoy its rewards. Current events would indicate that both parties have dropped the ball and the future of America is now in jeopardy.

It is obvious that the thousands of illegal immigrants arriving by caravan will impact the future of America, as will the socialistic individuals now controlling such states as California and Minnesota. We cannot let them be successful. With God's help, America's best days can still be ahead, but we need the involvement of everyone.

Therefore, let's take the opportunity this year to meet with family friends and church members to see where we can make a difference. Encourage good people to run for every upcoming elected position this year. Write letters to every TV/Radio station to drop the increasing use of profanity. Good results will happen. Working together we can make a difference.

If we don't take the state of our union seriously now, will



we be forced to take the New Hampshire colonial slogan seriously in the future? "Live Free or Die!"

God bless you and God bless America,

Gary and Joan

**In Conclusion:** A free country such as ours has a two-fold responsibility to secure the "the state of the union." The stability of America depends on both the federal government and the American people. Each generation inherits the legacy of those who have come before and the responsibility to pass on to the next generation the freedoms and liberties we currently enjoy. This means the state of the union is only healthy when both parties accept their responsibility. What we have as a nation is a precious gift from God. It is fragile and must be handled with care. Let us, therefore, make every effort to hold our elected official's feet to the fire to do their part, at the same time making every effort to do our part to ensure that the state of our union is forever secure. 🇺🇸

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