



Written by [Staff](#) on May 9, 2023

Published in the May 29, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 10

Inside Track

Fed Chair Admits Recession, Rate Hikes to Prank Callers



Jerome Powell (AP Images)

According to Bloomberg on April 27, during a prank call with two Russians impersonating Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in January this year, U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell made some startling admissions, ranging from inflation to the possibility of establishing a Federal Reserve bank in Kyiv. Video clips apparently of Powell on the call initially emerged on Russian television.

“Chair Powell participated in a conversation in January with someone who misrepresented himself as the Ukrainian president,” a Fed spokesperson said. “It was a friendly conversation and took place in a context of our standing in support of the Ukrainian people in this challenging time. No sensitive or confidential information was discussed.”

However, thinking he was speaking with Zelensky, Powell did divulge during the call that the Fed would increase rates two more times, despite having been more discreet about the topic even when testifying before Congress. He also admitted that the U.S. economy would grow “at a subdued level” and that a recession would be “almost as likely as very slow growth,” as the Fed “raised rates quite a bit,” a move he justified on the pretext of curtailing inflation. “What we need is a period of slower growth so that the economy can cool off, so the labor market can cool off, so that wages can cool off.... That’s the only way we know to bring inflation down. And it can be painful, but we don’t know of any painless way for inflation to come down.”

The incident has triggered security concerns for the Fed, as its comments frequently impact markets, affecting the American and global economies.

Bloomberg revealed that the pranksters, who go by the nicknames Vovan and Lexus, are backers of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and that they publish their talks to embarrass Western policymakers. They have also succeeded in pranking European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde, Polish President Andrzej Duda, and former German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

— *Angeline Tan*



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UN Report: Minors Can Consent to Sex With Adults



(MagMos/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

On April 17, the Washington Free Beacon reported that “the United Nations is working to mainstream sex with minors.” The outlet was referring to “The 8 March Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty,” aka “The 8 March Principles.”

“Sexual conduct involving persons below the domestically prescribed minimum age of consent to sex may be consensual in fact, if not in law.... The enforcement of criminal law should reflect the rights and capacity of persons under 18 years of age to make decisions about engaging in consensual sexual conduct and their right to be heard in matters concerning them,” reads the report, released in March and written by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) with support from UNAIDS and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

“Pursuant to their evolving capacities and progressive autonomy, persons under 18 years of age should participate in decisions affecting them, with due regard to their age, maturity, and best interests, and with specific attention to non-discrimination guarantees,” the document declares.

The report also promotes the abolition of laws forbidding fornication and adultery of all stripes:

“Consensual sexual conduct, irrespective of the type of sexual activity, the sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of the people involved, or their marital status, may not be criminalized in any circumstances. Consensual same-sex, as well as consensual different-sex sexual relations, or consensual sexual relations with or between trans, nonbinary, and other gender-diverse people, or outside marriage — whether pre-marital or extramarital — may, therefore, never be criminalized.”

The UN-sponsored “8 March Principles” could undermine America’s national age-of-consent laws. It is yet another reason for the people of the United States, if we are to save our culture, children, and families, to get our country out of the United Nations.

— *Joe Wolverton*



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Climate Crazies Target Big Banks



(twitter.com/StopMoneyPipe)

Reuters reported on April 24 that climate vandals that day targeted large American banks with spray paint and protests in a bid to get the financial institutions to stop funding fossil-fuel projects and create more ESG-friendly investments. In New York, Citigroup and Bank of America were hit with raucous protests and vandalism in the form of graffiti sprayed on their buildings. A Wells Fargo bank in San Francisco was also the scene of a large protest, in which activists chained themselves to the doors of the facility. Reuters noted the activity was in anticipation of the banks' shareholder meetings scheduled for the next day.

Climate-hysterical groups including Climate Organizing Hub, Extinction Rebellion, Green Faith, Oil and Gas Network, and Stop the Money Pipeline were involved in the protests, although no specific group took responsibility for the vandalism.

Baby Boomers were among the most vocal protesters, with a group called Third Act threatening to use their substantial investments in such banks to push for more climate-friendly investing. "As retirees, we have a lot of money in places like Citibank, Fidelity, Vanguard, Chase and Wells Fargo, and they're using our money to fund new fossil fuel projects. We're asking them to stop it," said Siuli Gowilt, a member of Third Act.

The banks did little about the protests except issue tepid statements about how they understood where the rage was coming from and how they were trying to do better when it comes to climate change. "Citi respects the advocacy of climate activists and their right to protest. We recognize the importance of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. That's why we're investing in clean energy solutions through our net zero commitments and our \$1 trillion commitment to sustainable finance," Citigroup said in a statement to Reuters.

Climate crazies have previously glued themselves to tennis courts and vandalized priceless pieces of art to protest fossil fuels — which, like it or not, our society still depends upon to power our lives.

— *Jim Murphy*



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Sheriff Won't Enforce Unconstitutional Gun Laws



(Mousa81/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

According to the *Livingston Daily* on April 18, a subcommittee of the Livingston County (Michigan) Board of Commissioners has put forth a resolution reaffirming their support of the Second Amendment, and have instructed the county sheriff and the county prosecutor to refuse to enforce any federal gun regulation that they deem unconstitutional.

This is not Livingston's first effort to protect its residents' right to keep and bear arms — in 2020 they passed a resolution designating the county a "Second Amendment Sanctuary." But the new resolution goes further and declares Livingston County to be a "constitutional county" that will not fund any new program infringing on the right to keep and bear arms, a right protected by both the U.S. and Michigan constitutions.

The resolution reads in part: "This board will not authorize or appropriate new funds, resources, employees, agencies, contractors, buildings, detention centers or offices for the sole purposes of enforcing any statute, law, rule, order, or regulation that restricts the rights of any law-abiding citizen affirmed by the Second Amendment or Article 1, Section 6, of the Michigan Constitution, nor be used to aid any state or federal agency in infringing or restricting such rights."

During a meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 11, Livingston County Sheriff Mike Murphy expressed his support for the resolution and outlined his department's position regarding proposed red flag laws: "I'm not going to support, enforce, investigate anything that is unconstitutional when it comes to 2A or any other constitutional matter. I'm a constitutional sheriff and I'm not going to do anything that is going to jeopardize that, and if, God forbid, the red flag laws do pass, we won't be enforcing those or investigating those either."

The Livingston County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Murphy are to be commended for their resistance to federal overreach. Their rock-ribbed defense of the right of the people to arm themselves is an example for their colleagues in the other 49 states to follow.

— Joe Wolverton



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