



## Inside Track

### EPA: Coal Regulations About Politics of Power

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy made an admission against interest during testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on March 22. When grilled by Representative David McKinley (R-W.V.) about EPA regulations that are crippling the coal industry, McCarthy did not dispute the charge that the regulations will have no measurable effect on “global warming.” Instead, she said that the “benefit” of the regulations is in flexing federal muscle over industry.

McKinley challenged her by pointing out that, even though 40 percent of America’s power comes from coal, the federal government has put 33 percent of that coal off limits. “You are part of this administration that has a war on coal that is saying, ‘we’re not going to use coal,’” he told McCarthy. He pressed the issue further, asking her why the EPA continues its policies when there is “no benefit”: “I don’t understand. If it doesn’t have an impact on climate change around the world, why are we subjecting our hard-working taxpayers and men and women in the coal fields to something that has no benefit?”

McCarthy replied without disputing McKinley’s claim that the regulations will have “no measurable” impact on either pollution or “global warming.” Instead, she admitted that the reasons for the regulations have less to do with substance and more to do with the appearance of strength: “I think sir, we see it as having had enormous benefit in showing sort of domestic leadership as well as garnering support around the country for the agreement we reached in Paris.”

McKinley was quick to point out that “no one’s following it. China has doubled — since that Paris Accord, China has already announced that they are going to put up 360 [coal-fired plants]; India has announced that they’re going to double their use of coal.” Considering that McCarthy admits the “benefits” of the regulations are all about the politics of power, McKinley was likely wasting his CO2-rich breath.

### Globalists Exploit Brussels Terror to Push Police State

The blood after the March 22 terror attack in Brussels, Belgium, was not even dry when globalists and anti-sovereignty extremists began demanding more assaults on liberty and more power for themselves under the guise of “protecting” people from terrorism. At the top of the agenda: exploiting the crisis to impose a “Security Union” on Europeans that would consolidate the emerging continental police state.

EU “President” Jean-Claude Juncker was among the first to exploit the attack to demand more power. Speaking the day after the attack, Juncker called for deeper integration in intelligence gathering. “It becomes more and more obvious that we must reflect over the better cooperation between our respective secret services,” the globalist said. “Our knowledge of our immediate neighborhood is not good enough.”

He also called for imposing a “Union of security,” similar to the “Union of energy, Union of the capital markets, or an economic and monetary Union.” When globalist EU leaders speak of “union” or “integration,” it is code word for usurping what little remains of national sovereignty and self-government, and transferring those powers to the power-mad continental regime in Brussels.



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Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi did not even let one night pass before exploiting the attack. “Today they hit Belgium, but they also hit the capital of the European Union,” Renzi said. “We need a European pact, a pact for freedom and security.... Europe must go all the way this time. We must invest in a common security and defense structure. The security services must work together, and better together, with constant, timely and continuous cooperation.”

Some analysts say that further “security” power grabs by Brussels are likely to be resisted by member states weary of handing any more power to the unpopular super-state. But that rests largely on the assumption that the EU would respect the wishes of formerly sovereign European peoples. So far, the EU has brazenly bulldozed over public opposition, going so far as to ignore clear “no” votes in referendums on imposing a continental constitution.

## **Robot Revolution Could Make Your Job Obsolete**

More than two dozen massive robots move 20-foot-long shipping containers at a Los Angeles shipping terminal, cutting costs by between an estimated 30 and 50 percent, according to a March 27 *Wall Street Journal* article. A new terminal, being built at the Port of Long Beach, will be able to handle nearly half of that port’s entire volume, moving and stacking more than three million of those shipping containers every year.

The robotics revolution, thanks to Moore’s Law (how overall processing power for computers will double every two years) and the consequent dramatic lowering of the cost of information, is sweeping across the world. In some cases robots are doing the jobs of 10 workers.

Restaurants are leading the way, with Olive Garden, White Castle, Taco Bell, Applebee’s, Panera Bread, Burger King, Subway, Arby’s, and Chili’s already using computer tablets that allow customers not only to order but to pay their bill. At Lowe’s Home Improvement stores, customers are being greeted by OSHbot, which speaks two languages, answers questions, and guides customers to items in the store. It provides information about the item, and when its battery runs low, it runs itself over to the recharging station. Target recently announced its plans to start replacing team members with robots called Techstar, an automated system taking advantage of the latest technology. Within two years it will have up and running a “concept store” where robots will work alongside human team members.

Robots are now doing jobs that used to be done by pastry chefs, typists, paralegals, math teachers, anesthesiologists, telemarketers, legal secretaries, watch repairers, and even models displaying clothing, underwear, and shoes. They can now write music, diagnose diseases, and trade stocks. If you’re a writer, consider this: “Things looked bleak for the Angels when they trailed by two runs in the ninth inning, but Los Angeles recovered thanks to a key single from Vladimir Guerrero to pull out a 7-6 victory of the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park on Sunday.” That was written by a robot.

## **Michigan Board of Education Releases New LGBTQ Guidelines**

Michigan’s Board of Education has drafted a set of guidelines that asks schools to allow students to make their own decisions regarding which bathrooms they use, the gender by which they want to be identified, and the names by which they’d like to be called. The guidelines, which seem to explicitly remove parents and doctors from the decision-making process, have been signed by State Superintendent Brian Whiston. The board issued the statement and corresponding guidance on February 23 without a press release. The public was given until April 11 to comment on the guidance



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and the board plans to finalize it on May 10.

The statement defines gender identity as “a person’s deeply held internal sense or psychological knowledge of their own gender, regardless of the biological sex they were assigned at birth,” and allows students to make decisions based on the gender with which they identify. The statement also identifies some of its students as gender nonconforming (GNC), which is defined as those “whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations of the biological sex they were assigned at birth.”

Notable items that are missing from the guidance are considerations based on students’ ages, as well as input from parents and medical professionals. “The responsibility for determining a student’s gender identity rests with the student. Outside confirmation from medical or mental health professionals, or documentation of legal changes, is not needed,” the guidance states.

Within a month after the board released the guidelines, there were nearly 900 comments on the public comment forum regarding the guidance, and a majority of parents are outraged. “These new policy standards are a slap in the face to parental rights.... The State does not have a place in deciding what is best for our children,” declared parent Casey Armitage. A number of parents threatened to either homeschool their children or place them in private school if the standards are adopted. One parent, identified as Meghan R., wrote, “If this passes we will ensure our children never attend public school here in Michigan.”



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