

Written by **John F. McManus** on April 3, 2017





Quick Quotes

Is the New Secretary of the Interior a Climate-change Believer?

"Climate is changing; man is an influence. I think where there's debate on it is what that influence is and what can we do about it."

Sworn in as the nation's newest secretary of the interior, Ryan Zinke left his post as Montana's only congressman. He has openly disputed President Trump's claim that climate change is a hoax.

There's No Moral Case for Ignoring Illegal Entry Into the United States

"While reasonableness and good judgment are essential components of enforcement, no one who enters any country illegally should presume that the passage of time vitiates compliance with or enforcement of immigration laws."

In his letter to the editor published by the New York Times, lawyer Eliot Tannenbaum admitted that he is "no fan of Trump." But he obviously is also no fan of ignoring the nation's laws against illegally entering our country.

IRS Having Money Problems

"This is an agency that has every last drop squeezed out of it. I don't know how it's going to sustain itself."

Many taxpayers will likely refrain from weeping over the IRS shortfall. The agency's advisory council member, Professor Dennis Ventry, who teaches law at the University of California, Davis, is very concerned. The White House budget for the next fiscal year calls for a 14-percent cut in the agency's budget.

French Center-Right Candidate Fights Corruption Charges

"I didn't embezzle any money. I employed — like almost a third of the members of Parliament — family members because I knew I could count on their loyalty and competence. They helped me, and I will prove it."

Knowing with certainty that he faces charges of embezzlement for paying his wife and children handsome sums for no work, François Fillon intends to continue his candidacy for France's presidency. The first round of voting will be held on April 23. After those votes are counted, the top two candidates will face voters again in a winner-take-all contest on May 7. Polls have Fillon currently running in third place in a tight race.

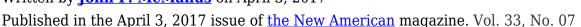
Iconic New York City Hotel Closed for Two-year Makeover

"I'm very sad. I think this is an American institution and I think it should stay American."

Now owned by a Chinese company, the venerable Waldorf-Astoria hotel will renovate all of its 1,400









rooms and convert some to condominiums. A regular visitor to the hotel, Rebecca Ward of Orlando, expressed sorrow but insisted that she will return as soon the hotel reopens.

Coalition of "Progressives" Worried About Gorsuch

"Democrats have failed to demonstrate a strong, unified resistance to this nominee despite the fact that he is an ultraconservative jurist who will undermine our basic freedoms and threaten the independence of the federal judiciary. This is a do-or-die nomination."

A group of 11 "progressive groups" organized by NARAL Pro-Choice America sent a letter to Senate Democrats strongly opposing the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch.

Replacing ObamaCare a Daunting Task

"I have to tell you, it's an unbelievably complex subject. Nobody knew that health care could be so complex."

At a meeting with the nation's governors, President Donald Trump admitted that he was very surprised by the complexities of constructing a healthcare program.

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