



## Inside Track

### **Major Media Ignores Nationwide, Student-led Pro-life Walkout**

The major media fell over themselves to assure glowing coverage of supposedly student-led gun-control walkout rallies in the wake of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, but when thousands of students across America staged a pro-life walkout April 11 to protest the nation's liberal abortion laws that have taken the lives of over 50 million pre-born babies over the past 45 years, reporters and major media commentators yawned and turned away.

The pro-life walkout was in part a response to the punishment a high-school teacher in Rocklin, California (near Sacramento), experienced for questioning why her school district embraced a student gun-control walkout, but frowned on a similar student walkout protesting legalized abortion. The discipline Rocklin High School teacher Julianne Benzel received prompted Rocklin High junior Brandon Gillespie to organize a school-wide pro-life protest, and that one school and 40 or so student protesters grew to thousands of students in schools across the nation staging a peaceful, organized walkout to draw attention to the generations of babies who have been aborted since the Supreme Court's infamous 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Regarding the Rocklin High School pro-life walkout, the *Sacramento Bee* reported April 11 that both Julianne Benzel and Brandon Gillespie said participants were not treated the same as those involved in the gun-control walkout, "who were given tents to shelter them from the rain and a public address system. Teachers also were directed not to discipline students who participated in the March 14 protest, Benzel said. She said similar directives were not given to teachers about Tuesday's protest."

Students for Life of America (SLA) President Kristan Hawkins noted that the supposedly student-led gun-control walkouts were largely orchestrated by politicized outside groups that naturally attracted like-minded media outlets. As for the truly student-led pro-life event, the major media, almost unanimously supportive of Planned Parenthood's murderous agenda, "will pretend it didn't happen," said Hawkins. "They will hope, by their actions, to hide the reality that people care about lives lost to abortion just as they care about lives lost to gun violence."

### **The Average American Worked 109 Days to Pay All of His Taxes**

While Americans focused on paying their income taxes by April 17, a report from the Tax Foundation released April 11 likely gave them little comfort. The average American worker had to work until April 19 — 109 days — to pay all of his taxes: federal, state, local, and municipal. That's just three days fewer than last year, thanks to Trump's tax-reform law. Put another way, the total tax bill of \$5.2 trillion soaks up more than a quarter of the economy's total gross annual output.

The foundation counts every conceivable tax to come up with its conclusion: individual income taxes (44 days), payroll taxes (26 days), sales and excise taxes (15 days), corporate income taxes (seven days), and property taxes (11 days). The balance comes from estate and inheritance taxes, customs, duties, and other taxes.

The Tax Foundation also added how long it would take the average American taxpayer to pay for the



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money the federal government borrowed this year. After all, those borrowings, says the foundation, are simply taxes that haven't been paid yet. With the federal deficit pushing a trillion dollars a year, this calculation extends Tax Freedom Day from April 19 out to May 6 (17 days later).

Averages, of course, are deceiving. For instance, New York residents "celebrate" their Tax Freedom Day on May 14, the latest of any state. Other states' rankings reflect their relative tax laws. For instance, Illinois residents' Tax Freedom Day comes on April 29, while Connecticut and New Jersey residents enjoy starting to work for themselves after May 4. Residents of Louisiana join Alaskans with the lowest annual tax burden in 2018: Their Tax Freedom Day arrived on April 4. They were followed by taxpayers in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Alabama, who enjoyed the opportunity to start working for themselves after April 5.

Those taxpayers will likely be astonished to learn when Tax Freedom Day occurred when the federal government funded itself adequately without income taxes: In 1900, Americans enjoyed Tax Freedom Day on January 22.

## **Summit of the Americas Inks "Commitment" to Globalism, UN Agenda**

With U.S. President Donald Trump and Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro missing, government leaders at the Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru, signed a "commitment" on April 14 promising to keep advancing the cause of globalism and the United Nations Agenda 2030 across the region. The implications for freedom and self-government are troubling.

The summit, which takes place every three years, was organized by the Organization of American States (OAS), a sort of wannabe European Union for the Western Hemisphere. And while the confab received plenty of press coverage, virtually nobody in the establishment media focused on the important elements — or the threat to liberty and national sovereignty.

The final declaration, officially dubbed the "Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance Against Corruption," could have easily been written by the Communist Chinese Party, or any one of its totalitarian-minded allies in Latin America. Under the guise of fighting "corruption," the inter-American agreement calls for governments to implement the UN's agenda, collaborate on indoctrinating children, crack down on legal tax avoidance, share information on citizens with each other, and much more.

Citing Syria and other "developments," President Trump became the first U.S. president not to attend the Summit of the Americas. It was widely viewed as a snub that would make "progress" on globalism more difficult. Unfortunately for those who supported the agenda he articulated on the campaign trail, however, the president sent Vice President Mike Pence.

The Trump administration has already applied to host the next Summit of the Americas in the United States. When considering the Trump administration's attacks on Syria, the publicly touted effort to have the U.S. government rejoin TPP, the "modernization" of NAFTA, the appointment of globalists and neocons such as CFR member John Bolton to key positions, and Pence's full-throated endorsement of the Lima Commitment, it seems that Trump's "America First" agenda that so endeared him to voters is in danger of being put aside. Americans must redouble their efforts to preserve freedom and self-government, or risk losing both.



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## **London Mayor Calls for “Knife Control” to Combat Crime, Murder**

Despite a near-total ban on guns within its borders, London continues to suffer from violence and crime, with its murder rate recently shooting past that of New York City. Thus, with London’s thugs and assorted criminals using knives and other sharp objects as their trade tool of choice, it is only natural that the city’s mayor, Sadiq Khan, would move to disarm anyone — law-abiding or not — carrying a knife.

Khan announced April 8 that he is deploying several hundred London police officers in an effort to put a stop to a nasty spate of stabbings across the city. “What you will see over the course of the next few weeks and months ... is stop and search based on suspicion of carrying an offensive weapon going up,” he told London’s media, with “more arrests as a consequence of this intelligence-led stop-and-search going up and hopefully our city becoming safer.”

Because 31 of London’s 2018 murders have been stabbings, Khan is convinced that taking knives away from everyone is the ticket to a safer London, despite the fact that knives are already severely restricted across the United Kingdom. U.K. law makes it illegal to sell knives to individuals under 18, and everyone else is prohibited from carrying one “without good reason” — except for Boy Scout-style pocket knives with blades under three inches.

Warning all U.K. residents of the crackdown, Kahn recently tweeted: “No excuses: there is never a reason to carry a knife. Anyone who does will be caught, and they will feel the full force of the law.”

Commenting on the culture of violence that seems to be overtaking London, as it has other major cities, the National Rifle Association pointed out in an April 6 editorial: “With all of the talk of further restrictions, harsher enforcement strategies, and additional funding to combat crime in the already heavily regulated and surveilled London, few appear willing to acknowledge that there might just be a limit to the government’s ability to control human behavior.”

## **Anti-immigration Viktor Orbán Reelected in Hungary**

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán won reelection to a third consecutive term on April 8. Orbán’s Fidesz party won 133 of the national assembly’s 199 seats in the election, putting the party in a strong position to achieve a two-thirds supermajority in the legislature. A party that holds a supermajority in Hungary’s national assembly is able to modify major laws and the country’s constitution.

An April 8 Associated Press report about Orbán’s victory noted, “Orbán has campaigned heavily on his unyielding anti-migration policies. He claims that the opposition is collaborating with the United Nations, the European Union and wealthy philanthropist George Soros to turn Hungary into an ‘immigrant country,’ threatening its security and Christian identity.”

“We want to call out what’s ailing this continent,” Orbán told Hungary’s Christian-conservative Echo TV after claiming victory: “We don’t want to go against Europe and the EU, we want Europe and the EU to be strong and successful. But before that we need to be honest about what’s hurting us.”

Orbán is known for being an outspoken champion of his nation’s sovereignty and has criticized efforts by European Union leaders to impose immigration quotas on member nations.



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The Hungarian leader's strong stands on securing his nation's borders and limiting the admission of refugees from Middle Eastern countries have caused some observers to compare him to Donald Trump. This comparison was noted by the *Washington Post* in a September 5, 2015 article headlined, "Hungary's prime minister becomes Europe's Donald Trump." The *Post* article observed, in part: "Hungary's maverick Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is emerging as the straight-talking voice of right-wing Europe, vowing to block a wave of desperate refugees from seeking sanctuary in the region. Continuing a string of blunt statements of a sort rarely heard from heads of state on this side of the Atlantic, he warned [on September 4, 2015] that Europeans now stand to become 'a minority in our own continent' if the floodgates are not immediately closed. Trump dreams of building a wall to keep migrants out. But Orbán, 52, has actually done it — erecting 109 miles of razor wire to stop them."

When he spoke to reporters after a meeting of the "Visegrad Four" group of central European leaders in Warsaw back on July 21, 2016, Orbán declared that there is a clear link between illegal migration to Europe and terrorist attacks in European nations. "It is clear as two and two makes four, it is plain as day. There is an obvious connection," Orbán said through an interpreter. "If somebody denies this connection then, in fact, this person harms the safety of European citizens."

As *The New American* observed in an article in September 2015, Orbán has repeatedly criticized efforts by European Union leaders to impose immigration quotas on member nations before the continent's borders are made secure. He told Hungarian diplomats in Budapest on September 7, 2015: "As long as we can't defend Europe's outer borders, it is not worth talking about how many people we can take in.... The quota system wants to treat the effects before it treats the causes of immigration. The main reason for this is because [the EU] cannot control its outer borders."

Bloomberg News on April 8 quoted political analyst Tamas Boros of the Policy Solutions think tank in Budapest as saying: "Orbán won this election on his anti-immigrant campaign, and populist parties across Europe will likely take notice of this winning formula. The strong mandate will likely also give Orbán ammunition for his fights within the EU."

The Bloomberg report observed that Orbán's warning that Muslim immigrants would "overrun" Europe was reflected by successful political gains made by like-minded parties across Europe over the past year, including Austria's Freedom Party and the League and the Five Star Movement in Italy. The European Parliament is set to vote later this year on whether it should strip Budapest of its EU voting rights because of its anti-immigrant policies, which the EU charges are undemocratic.

However, Orbán has repeatedly defended his position. "We want Hungary to remain a Hungarian country," he has said. "We have a culture, which we call a Christian culture. This is how we live our lives. This is our world, our culture, our lifestyle. These are our life principles. We want to defend these and we don't want others to change them."



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