

An essay for presentation to the
Indianapolis Literary Club on the date shown.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PRELUDE, PREFACE, INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY:

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Credit for the many discoveries made in the course of this research goes to the staff of the William B. Miller Collection at the Millard Fillmore Hospital, Buffalo (NY).

Any references or citations found here-in to be obscure, racist, sexist, misogynistic, bigoted, rude, insensitive or contrary to good breeding, may be the result of the listener's inadequate familiarity with American history and thought, or the listener's willingness to believe the fabrications of the author.

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For untold centuries, in various cultures, Spin-the-bottle was an introduction to sexual activity practiced by emotionally repressed teens. Many of whom, in the past, grew up to become members of Literary Clubs.

The fundamental concept of Spin-the-bottle was that in randomness lies the essentials of adventure and that sexual activity is an adventure. An adventure was described as a series of experiences thought to be out-of-the-ordinary, exciting by nature, with overtones of embarrassment stemming from awkwardness.

According to documents found at the J.D. Vance Presidential Library in Red Ructus, West Virginia, the practice of Spin-the-bottle was denounced and listed as a criminal offense in 2036. “Bottles,” President Vance declared “were meant for storing whiskey. The party employing the whiskey to its appropriate use might spin, but the bottle should not.”

Secretary of Cultural Affairs and Social Decorum, Her Sweetness, Marjorie Taylor Greene, had warned during the late 2020s of Spin-the-bottle’s role in developing same-sex relationships. Men and women had been using single sex circles for Spin-the bottle tournaments held in the Circle City, home of amateur sporting events.

Secretary Greene’s successful campaign to limit, or as she would say, “defuse” all same-sex encounters, had previously required the closing of single sex social clubs and the outlawing all forms of communications displaying or celebrating an obviously non-celibate relationship.

“We” the Secretary told the Sons and Daughters of the New American Revolution at their annual RV Roundup in Dunlap (Elkhart County, Indiana). “At this very moment,” she said, “meetings are taking place to set new rules for Social Security eligibility, including certification as grandparents.”

“Men and women must procreate to fulfill their natural functions and our destiny,” Governor Beckwith told Hoosiers at his inauguration in 2029, “Family planning has a new meaning from now on. Hence forth, our license plates will carry pro-natalist slogans like “One was fun, but five proves you’re alive.”

“All persons over 40 years of age,” he said, “must have medical documentation to be exempt from parenthood. Barrenness will not be treated kindly in this state.”

These revelations from documents discovered in the Red Ructus Archives were understandable, patriotic leanings of their times. They were no way as challenging as what has been called “the Commerce Chronicles.”

As is well known, when former Vice President Pence was recalled in 2030 from his posting as the Philosophical Attaché to the new Dalai Lama, he became the Official Yardstick of the Commerce Department. In that role, Pence debilitated deviant doctrines and devilish designs to desecrate our democracy.

Yes, in the Chronicles, you will find plans to transform America, undermine capitalism, introduce alien thought, and put this nation, our dear homeland, on the metric system.

As we all know and avow, the metric system is Godless because it denies the divine in mankind. We know that a yard is the distance from the tip of some king's nose to that point at the end of his fingers on his outstretched arm. It doesn't matter which king of which country. It's a measure based on a human scale.

A foot is, fundamentally, the distance from the rear of the heel to the front of the big toe. That's a measure based on a human scale.

Likewise, an inch is the distance from the first joint on the thumb to the end of that digit. Again, a human scale.

And if you have a foot or a yard, you can have a half of one, or a quarter, or an eighth, or a sixteenth or a thirty-second....and onwards in logical, human progression.

But Metrification denies a human connection in all measures. That alien distortion of relationships – and it is alien for it was developed by the French as an attempt to dominate the world of commerce as part of their revolution against the sweet joys of monarchy.

The meter. What is that but an elongated yard? Specifically, a meter equals 1.0936 yards. And with a bit of algebra (whoever thought algebra would be useful?) we get a yard equal to 0.9144 meters.

Now think about what I just told you. A meter (this creation of the Frogs) becomes 1.1 yards and a yard converts to just 0.9 meters. Is that fair?

Think of it this way. A luscious French woman comes in to your clothing store and wants to buy a scarf. You say, in your most Clouseau baritone, “And how long a scarf would Madame desire?”

Oh, she is breathing heavily now. “Just a meter, s’il vous plait” Well, you start to think about that heaving chest, and you cut her 1.1 yards of fabric.

But, when your lady goes into a French *Fabriques s’est nous*, and seeks, with her Midwestern twang, a yard of fabric, she gets 0.9 of a meter. Is that fair trade?

Einstein was big on thought experiments. Try this, it’s 175 miles these days from Indianapolis to Columbus (OH). But once we have meters substituted for miles, it’s going to be 191 kilometers, which sounds like a lot more driving to me.

And what is a meter anyway?. Nobody really knows. There has been continuing redefinition of a meter over several centuries. At one time, a meter was elegantly defined as “one ten-millionth of the distance from the North Pole to the Equator, measured along the meridian through Paris.”

Now there is a concept for you. **One ten-millionth**, an everyday measure, **of the distance from the North Pole to the Equator**, a distance known to every primary school child, **measured**, conveniently, **along the meridian**

through, guess where? **Paris**. Ah, those Frenchies, so distraught over the Greenwich meridian

To solidify the meter, to give it a corpus, a single platinum bar, held in Paris, was recognized as the international standard in 1875, a sly tribute, after the inglorious defeat of the French by the Prussians, in their 1870 war.

But science, like a high school band, marches on. Presently, but subject to redefinition, recalibration, and Nobel reconsideration, a meter is now equal to the tip-to-tip distance from the nose to the tail of the annual winner of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

This change was made during Mr. Pence's tenure as the national yardstick. In the interim, before this canine triumph, consummate commendation went to the committee which, in 1983, accepted the meter as the "Length of the path travelled by light in a vacuum in $\frac{1}{299,792,458}$ (one three-hundred millionth) of a second". That is a span of time even less than the attention of graduate students in a seminar on the history of monetary theory.

One of the many joys for the modern reader of the Chronicles is the successful restoration of a rational, simplified voting system for Americans. Engrossed in our Constitution on the 300th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 2076, the McConnell Male Mastery Provision provides weighted voting, dependent on the

number of native born American men each male voter represents.

It's simple and now widely accepted since castration was provided for men who protested the introduction of this voting method.

If a man is native-born and over the age of 18, he is entitled to one vote. If his father met the same criterion, the voter is given an added vote. If both of his grandfathers were native born, he now adds them to his registry and is entitled to a total of four votes. He keeps adding votes for each successive native born male forebearer.

No man is without a vote. And men whose male ancestors were enslaved, but born after 1788 and before 1866, are entitled to the addition of two-thirds of a vote, as determined by their certified native born ancestry. In some cases, as you might expect, certification may be difficult to ascertain. But this provision has proven beneficial to the male progeny of Thomas Jefferson and other distinguished citizens.

Men who claim native ancestry through tribal relations are required to show an appropriate certificate of birth or inscription in a authenticated King James Bible to receive ancestral votes.

Since our Constitution now proudly requires that a person be eligible to vote as a prerequisite for securing any elected governmental position, women no longer have to be distracted by political issues while attending to their intended societal responsibilities.

Which brings us to the revised economic data so necessary for public and private decision making. These are the data that measure the health of our economy. They are fundamental to forecasting the direction for our lives and the pathways our children will follow. For this reason, the Chronicles are clear that a new set of data was required to achieve the stability lacking under the discredited, old ways.

Certain guidelines were set down to ensure public confidence.

1. All data are exempt from revision. Once a number is reported, it cannot be changed. In the old days, before this standard was adopted, there were revisions monthly, or twice in every quarter, with annual benchmarking and recalibration, so that economic history was transitory.
2. International measures are fixed. The relationships between various currencies are immutable, regardless of the practices in other nations. The interminably “floating” currency rates give rise to anxiety which a confident nation cannot tolerate. Likewise all prices are unchanged by

- circumstances. How can Mother plan her menus, if a remote bird flu can alter the price of eggs?
3. Stock prices are adjusted quarterly during a three hour period on the last Tuesdays of March and September, except on national days of commemoration.
No enterprise changes in value with the frequency and irregularity of direction witnessed under prior commercial systems.
 4. Interest rates may be adjusted only on the birthday of the President. A sound economy cannot permit idiosyncratic views of the future. The Central Bank of the United States, chaired by the President or his son-in-law, in its determination of the interest rates for future periods, will calculate all risks from Acts of the Deity to the fluttering of butterfly wings.

The unemployment rate is, as are most critical economic measures, a compound fracture...NO, a compound Fiction Fraction.

In the upper half of this fraction, known locally as the Numerator, is that most amazing bit of monthly data, the number of persons holding jobs. How many jobs? or Working how many hours? These are not matters to be considered here or anywhere else.

This is a number, this Numerator, found through a survey of households by the Census Bureau. The Current

Population Survey, which uses individual human experiences, and then, disrespectfully, aggregates that which cannot be aggregated.

Resident in the bottom half of this fraction, known as the Denominator, is one of life's greatest mysteries: the number of persons in the labor force.

Note: there is no minimum age for these numbers. For decades, child performers were excluded from both the number of employed and the members of the labor force. That age discrimination, that disregard for the service of the young, has been terminated by the Child Employment Declaration of 2061.

This pioneering step gives exclusive rights to parents for the employment of their children. With great compassion for usefulness, all such earnings are exempt from income taxes. Once again, our leadership has taken the necessary steps to promote child-bearing.

The benefits are generational. No longer are children considered a liability, but are recognized as assets on the family balance sheet with full provisions for depreciation, a capital consumption allowance for tykes who are apt to burn-out. Even grandparents, often ignored, may partake in the fiscal return on the talents of their off-springs' off-spring.

Furthermore, these practices have eliminated the minimum age requirements for marriage. Now, when the flesh is in heat, adolescent affinities may flourish.

In addition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the past, offered a panoply of unemployment rates for subsets of the population, culminating in the infamous, unemployment rate for left-handed persons, in five different age ranges and seven ethnicities..

Since the contemporary era, however, unemployment is now a private matter as is income. The flat, per capita tax, paid in order to vote, precludes much of the intrusive collection of statistics about the American population and the households which comprise our glorious society.

With your indulgence, I will conclude with two brief statements of commendation for our revised manual of statistical methods.

Gone are seasonal adjustments. These were efforts to deny reality by altering data to conform to historical patterns for the various months in the year. For example, in the Northern Hemisphere, above the Tropic of Cancer, ice cream sales in January were lower than those in July. An easily understood phenomenon.

But statisticians, to enhance their market value, chose to raise the question, “How can we compare ice cream sales in January to those in other months and thereby identify hidden trends?” Once again the adaptability and

ingenuity of humans was ignored to satisfy the hypothetical ruminations deep in the deep-state.

Refrigeration, indoor heating, and year-round advertising were the countervailing forces to sustain ice cream sales. Plus, global warming was doing much to make ice cream as popular above the Arctic Circle as below.

Next, how do we report inflation?. The experiences of the Great Inflation, 2025 to 2031, put American society into a virtual vertigo of numerical experiences. “Give us one number!” was on placards carried in marches across the country. The Nebraska Doctrine, adopted by the only unicameral legislature in the nation, finally resolved the difficulty.

Initially, changes in the Consumer Price Index (the CPI) were reported in a multitude of ways. We had CPI-U and CPI-W for the general population and for a mysterious subset of that population, respectively. But what was the change?

1. The percent change between the current month’s value of the CPI and the same month one year ago?
2. The percent change between the current month of the CPI and the previous month?
3. Number 2 above, annualized to project the rate, if sustained, for one year?

4. Any of the above for a subset of items, the Core Rate?

Need I go on?

This confusion was eliminated by the Nebraska Doctrine, founded on the works of the transcendentalist, Professor Josiah Justice of York University's mathematics faculty. It was he, who was dismissed from his position because he held that the ultimate value of pi, being infinite, included 3.14 as adopted by the Indiana General Assembly March 14, 1897. (That, that bill was never passed is a canard, propagated by Hoosier archivists, whose income, position, and new building were dependent on the good will of that same legislative body.)

Professor Justice contended that inflation, and all like phenomena, were personal experiences, measured in so many dimensions of life that a single number could not capture the infinity of human observations.

After years of struggle, the BLS was directed by Congress, to provide only the prices of individual goods and services, in specific locales, at specified points in time, and not attempt to summarize them into any one or any set of numbers.

And, for this heresy, this vision before its time, the good Professor was dismissed by York University, evicted from his home, and abandoned on U.S. Highway 34, 44 miles east of Grand Island and 50 west of Lincoln.

In time, a Fox News reporter found, in a snow-covered trash heap on that lonely route, this note:

It is my emphatic belief that all data has its derivatives, but not an integral. All data should be related only in human terms. However, if necessary for social harmony, it may be acceptable to spin a bottle.

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