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| --- | --- |
| Jihad Report  Oct 28, 2017 - Nov 03, 2017 | |
| Attacks | **32** |
| Killed | **153** |
| Injured | **160** |
| Suicide Blasts | **6** |
| Countries | **14** |

**When Gold is Worthless**

You have heard of counterfeit 100 dollar bills. Then, when that sent out all the alerts, the counterfeiters started doing 50’s and then 20’s. Well, the same with gold bars. A 10 kilo gold bar is worth about $46,000, except when it is gold plated tungsten. In fact, the last time there was a widespread physical gold counterfeiting scare was in the summer of 2012 when the discovery of a fake single 10 oz Tungsten-filled gold bar in Manhattan's jewelry district led to a panic among the dealer community, which then resulted in local jewelry outlets discovering at least ten more fake 10-ounce "gold bars" filled with Tungsten. That might actually be worth counterfeiting, but I am sure the purchase took place from a private source. Fast forward to today when a similar instance of gold counterfeiting has been discovered, this time in Canada, and where the fake bar in question had been "certified" by the highest possible authority.

According to CBC, the Royal Canadian Mint is investigating how a sealed, one-ounce "pure gold" wafer with proper mint stampings has emerged as a fake. According to the Canadian press, it was supposed to be 99.99% pure, and was purchased by an Ottawa jeweler on Oct. 18 at an official Royal Bank of Canada branch. The problem emerged when tests of the bar showed it may contain no gold at all. Zip. Nada. And, when neither the mint nor RBC would take the bar back, jeweler Samuel Tang contacted CBC news. Now, who would counterfeit a tiny one-ounce wafer of gold, certify it, serialize it, seal it, and provide it to the bank for sale to jewelers who would then sell them to discriminating buyers?

And, if the one-ounce pieces are fake, who’s to say that the 5-ounce and 10-ounce bars are real?

**North Korea Hacked US Sub Designs**

A South Korean lawmaker says North Korean hackers broke into a shipyard and stole plans for naval technologies as Pyongyang seeks its own submarine fleet armed with nuclear missiles.

Kyeong Dae-soo, a lawmaker from South Korea's hawkish Liberty Korea Party, made public the claim that North Korea stole the plans less than a month after a "ridiculous mistake" allowed the US and South Korea's war plans to be hacked by Pyongyang.

"We are almost 100 percent certain that North Korean hackers were behind the hacking and stole the company's sensitive documents," [Kyeong told Reuters](http://uk.businessinsider.com/r-north-korea-hacked-daewoo-shipbuilding-took-warship-blueprints-south-korea-lawmaker-2017-10). Defense industry officials corroborated Kyeong's [story to The Wall Street Journal](https://www.wsj.com/articles/north-korean-hackers-stole-submarine-secrets-from-daewoo-lawmaker-says-1509447847?mod=e2tw).

Sixty "classified documents including blueprints and technical data for submarines and vessels equipped with Aegis weapon systems" made their way into North Korean hands, according to The Journal.

The news of the theft comes as US intelligence assesses that North Korea has begun construction of a new class of 2,000-ton submarine — likely the largest ever attempted by the small country, [The Diplomat reports](https://thediplomat.com/2017/10/the-sinpo-c-class-a-new-north-korean-ballistic-missile-submarine-is-under-construction/). The submarine appears to follow North Korea's tradition of attempting to field an undersea leg of its nuclear deterrent, mimicking the US.

Basically, by deploying nuclear weapons on land and at sea, North Korea makes it nearly impossible for any one attack from the US or any other adversary to remove its nuclear capabilities.

Kyeong said that the information hacked also contained details on submarine-launched ballistic missiles, which North Korea has tried and failed to perfect in the past.

Though the US and South Korea enjoy a massive edge in submarine technology over North Korea, the shallow coastal waters around the Korean Peninsula are noisy with irregular currents, meaning even the best submarine hunters might struggle to hunt down and destroy their targets. North Korea is thought to operate about 60 submarines, but none of those can likely launch a ballistic missile yet.

An underwater test-firing of a strategic submarine ballistic missile shown in an undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on April 24, 2016. KCNA/File Photo via Reuters

Additionally, Aegis technology, also leaked in the hack, is used by the US and its allies to fend off incoming missiles or missiles fired overhead, like North Korea's frequent long-range missile tests. Aegis is a radar guided gun and rocket system designed to intercept and destroy incoming missiles aimed at naval vessels. It uses rapid aiming technologies that fire a cone of bullets or exploding grenades that missiles must fly through to reach the ship. There are significant weaknesses to this technology, which are now exploited by the North Koreans having the plans and firing programs.

Though North Korea likely can't duplicate the technology, Aegis is the world's most advanced at-sea missile defense, and any leaks could compromise the safety of the US Navy. The fact is they don’t have to duplicate it, but they will develop technology to disable it, or cause it to fire off-target so North Korean attacks can hit their targets. Most of the North Korean firepower only has to get close, or simply overwhelm the defense systems with quantity, patterns, or deceptive technologies.

Over the past year, North Koreans hackers broke into the Defense Integrated Data Center in September 2016 and stole a number of classified documents, citing defense ministry officials.

The news first emerged in April, with local [newspaper *Chosun Ilbo*](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/04/04/2017040401234.html?Dep0=twitter) quoting anonymous defense ministry sources and noting that the ministry had previously downplayed the seriousness of the hacking.

According to Rhee, the ministry still has to identify the content of about 80 percent of the 235 gigabytes of data that was stolen. The Ministry of National Defense has yet to find out about the content of 182 gigabytes of the total (stolen) data," the lawmaker said in a statement quoted in the South Korean [news agency Yonhap](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2017/10/10/0200000000AEN20171010003052315.html).

He also said that among the stolen files were Operation Plans 5015 and 3100. The operation plans are classified to the point that South Korean lawmakers from both ruling and opposition parties protested about the superficial briefing received by defense officials when they were introduced in 2015. It is no wonder that Little Kim publicly rattles his saber about the West targeting him and his country. He is facing down the most powerful military the world has ever known, and in is mind the only way to combat the West is by being aggressive against it. Think about it from his point of view. Little Kim has killed no one, except for a few strategic assassinations of his own political enemies. They have invaded no one. They have shelled no one. They have flown a few empty aluminum cans over Japan, just to show the world that they can do it. They have tested 6 nuclear weapons on their own soil, just to show the world they can do it. They have stolen plans that the West has to attack North Korea, kill its president, and to force them to join the central banking system.

Do I like the idea of a nuclear missile in the hands of North Korea? No. No one does. There is a reason why no nation has used nuclear weapons in warfare since 1945. Unfortunately for the world, North Korea does not share that reason. They don’t care if they go off the cliff as long as they are gripping America’s collar when they do.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at the Sci-Tech Complex, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang October 28, 2015. North Korean hackers have reportedly stolen secret U.S.-South Korean military plans.

It later [emerged that OPLAN 5015](http://www.newsweek.com/2017/05/05/what-war-north-korea-looks-588861.html) includes a pre-emptive strike on the North’s nuclear and missile facilities, as well as “decapitation attacks” against Kim and the rest of the North Korean leadership.

While OPLAN 5015 is seen as a blueprint for a limited war, OPLAN 3100 instead deals with Seoul’s response to possible North Korean localized provocation or commando infiltration.

According to Rhee, the hackers have also gained information about state-of-the-art military facilities, power plants and the joint military drills with the U.S. as well as reports meant for U.S. commanders.

North Korea has denied reports of the hacking, but it is no secret Pyongyang has trained a group of elite hackers over the years. In 2014, a North Korean defector spoke of his experience at the country’s military college for computer science where top students are hand-picked [to join the cyber warfare cell](http://www.newsweek.com/north-korea-training-cyber-warriors-289414). Cyber security experts also [believe Pyongyang hackers](http://www.newsweek.com/north-korea-cyber-warfare-sony-hack-612997) may have been behind the global “WannaCry” ransomware global cyber attack in May.

In 2016, South Korea said more than 140,000 computers at 160 south Korean firms and government agencies had been targeted by North Korean hackers. Among the stolen files were military documents related to blueprints for the wings of F-15 fighters, [Reuters reported](http://uk.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-southkorea-cyber/north-korea-mounts-long-running-hack-of-south-korea-computers-says-seoul-idUKKCN0YZ0BE).

**The Saudi Islamic Reformation Begins**

The heir to the throne in Saudi Arabia has consolidated his hold on power with a major purge of the kingdom's political and business leadership. A new anti-corruption body, headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, detained 11 princes, four sitting ministers and dozens of ex-ministers.

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, a billionaire with investments in Twitter and Apple, is among those held. Separately King Salman replaced the national guard and the navy chiefs. The new anti-corruption committee has the power to issue arrest warrants and travel bans.

Attorney General Sheikh Saud al-Mojeb said the status of the detainees would not influence "the firm and fair application of justice", AFP news agency reports. Saudi broadcaster Al-Arabiya said fresh investigations had been launched into the 2009 Jeddah floods and the outbreak of the Mers virus which emerged in Saudi Arabia in 2012 - but analysts see the detentions as a clear move by the crown prince to strengthen his power base.

The events of Saturday night in Saudi Arabia are nothing short of seismic for that country. In a bold, pre-planned move, the 32-year old Crown Prince has removed the final obstacles to his gaining total control over the world's richest oil producer and home to the holiest shrines in Islam.

Presented to the world as an anti-corruption drive, the arrests of princes, ministers and the billionaire tycoon Prince Alwaleed bin Talal have shocked Saudis unused to sudden change.

The crown prince is largely popular, especially amongst young Saudis, but many older, more conservative citizens think he is moving too far too fast. He has started an unwinnable war in Yemen while still fighting the extremists of so-called Islamic State. He has also backed a damaging boycott of Gulf neighbor Qatar.

But his supporters hail his efforts to modernize Saudi Arabia and, after decades of rule by old men, they welcome a fresh vision from a man who could well be king for the next 50 years.

Who is Prince Alwaleed?

The owner of London's Savoy hotel is one of the richest men in the world, with a net worth of $17bn (£13bn) according to Forbes.

Shares in Kingdom Holding, the investment firm owned by the prince, plunged 9.9% in early trade on the Saudi stock market after news of his detention emerged.

The firm is one of Saudi Arabia's most important investors. Apart from Twitter and Apple, it has shares in Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, Citigroup bank, the Four Seasons hotel chain and ride-sharing service Lyft.

The Saudi prince made the news in the past for employing women, who make up two-thirds of his staff.

But he was also known for his hundred-million-dollar desert resorts, where he employed dwarves for entertainment purposes.

Two years ago he offered luxury cars to fighter pilots participating in a bombing campaign in Yemen, where the Saudi-led coalition continues to bomb Houthi rebels, killing 26 people in an attack on a hotel and market on Wednesday.

Profile: Prince Alwaleed bin Talal

The Saudi prince who offered Bentleys to bombers

Saudis 'intercept missile' near capital

Prince Alwaleed once bought control of a hotel and a yacht from Donald Trump, when he had yet to enter politics, but clashed with him publicly on Twitter in 2015 over his decision to stand for president, the New York Times notes.

الوليد بن طلال ✔@Alwaleed\_Talal

.@realDonaldTrump

You are a disgrace not only to the GOP but to all America. Withdraw from the U.S presidential race as you will never win.

Mr Trump, who was born into a family of property developers, shot back with a tweet mocking the source of the prince's wealth.

Skip Twitter post by @realDonaldTrump

Donald J. Trump ✔@realDonaldTrump

Dopey Prince @Alwaleed\_Talal wants to control our U.S. politicians with daddy’s money. Can’t do it when I get elected. #Trump2016

President elect @realDonaldTrump whatever the past differences, America has spoken, congratulations & best wishes for your presidency.

Who else was detained or sacked? National guard minister Prince Miteb bin Abdullah and navy commander Admiral Abdullah bin Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Sultan were both replaced, with no official explanation given.

Prince Miteb bin Abdullah has been replaced as head of the powerful national guard

Prince Miteb, son of the late King Abdullah, was once seen as a contender for the throne and was the last member of Abdullah's branch of the family in the highest echelons of Saudi government.

Those reported to have been detained include:

Former Finance Minister Ibrahim al-Assaf, a board member of the Saudi Aramco oil company

Economy Minister Adel Fakieh

Former Riyadh governor Prince Turki bin Abdullah

Former head of the royal court Khalid al-Tuwaijiri

Bakr bin Laden, chairman of the Saudi Binladin construction group, and brother of Osama bin Laden

Some of the detainees are being held at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in the diplomatic quarter of Riyadh, sources in contact with the government told Reuters news agency.

What do we know about Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman?

Few people outside Saudi Arabia had heard of Prince Mohammed bin Salman before his father became king in 2015. But since then, the 32-year-old has become the most influential figure in the world's leading oil exporter

Last year, the crown prince unveiled a wide-ranging plan to bring social and economic change to the oil-dependent kingdom.

The anti-corruption committee was formed by royal decree and is headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He recently said the return of "moderate Islam" was key to his plans to modernize Saudi Arabia.

Addressing an economic conference in Riyadh, he vowed to "eradicate the remnants of extremism very soon".

**Preacher Police**

* The new law authorizes prefects to order the **closure of mosques or other places of worship for a period of up to six months if preachers are deemed to express "ideas or theories" that "incite violence, hatred or discrimination, provoke the commission of acts of terrorism or express praise for such acts."**
* French police and intelligence services are surveilling around 15,000 jihadists living on French soil, *Le Journal du Dimanche* reported on October 9. Of these, some 4,000 are at "the top of the spectrum" and most likely to carry out an attack.
* **Of the 1,900 French jihadists fighting with the Islamic State, as many as one-fifth have received as much as €500,000 ($580,000) in social welfare payments from the French state, *Le Figaro* revealed on October 26.**

**French President Emmanuel Macron has formally signed a new counter-terrorism law which gives prefects, police and security forces wide-ranging powers** — without the need to seek prior approval from a judge — to search homes, place people under house arrest and close places of worship. The measure also authorizes police to perform identity checks at French borders.

The new law, adopted by the French Senate on October 18, makes permanent many of the previously exceptional measures imposed under a two-year-old state of emergency, which was introduced after the jihadist attacks in Paris in November 2015. That state of emergency was slated to expire on November 1.

During a signing ceremony at the Élysée Palace on October 30, Macron said the compromise measure strikes the right balance between security and respect for civil liberties. Hardliners counter that the new law does not go far enough, while human rights groups complain that it will leave France in a permanent state of emergency.

The new law — Law to Strengthen Internal Security and the Fight Against Terrorism (Loi renforçant la sécurité intérieure et la lutte contre le terrorisme) — consists of seven main parts:

Security Zones. The new law gives prefects, the top government official in each of France's departments or regions, the power to designate public areas and sporting or cultural events, including music concerts, that are deemed to be at risk of terrorism, as security zones. The law authorizes police to search all persons or vehicles attempting to enter such areas or events. Anyone refusing to submit to such searches will be denied access.

Closing Places of Worship. The new law authorizes prefects to order the closure of mosques or other places of worship for a period of up to six months if preachers are deemed to express "ideas or theories" that "incite violence, hatred or discrimination, provoke the commission of acts of terrorism or express praise for such acts." Violations are punishable by six months in prison and a fine of €7,500 ($8,750). Opponents of the law argue that "ideas" and "theories" are subjective and therefore open to abuse.

House Arrest. The new law authorizes the Minister of the Interior to confine suspected Islamists, even those who are not accused of a specific crime, to the town or city of their domicile. Any individual for whom there are "serious reasons to believe that his or her conduct constitutes a particularly serious threat to public security and public order," may be placed under house arrest — without the prior approval of a judge — for a period of three months, renewable for additional periods of three months to a maximum period of one year. Individuals subject to such confinement will be required to report to their local police station once a day. Alternatively, individuals may be placed under mobile electronic surveillance. The Minister of the Interior may also prohibit individuals from being in direct or indirect contact with certain persons, named by name, who are believed to pose a threat to public security. Violations of the measures are punishable by three years in prison and a fine of €45,000 ($52,500).

Search and Seizure. The new law authorizes a prefect to ask a judge for a warrant to search the home of anyone suspected of posing a threat to public security. The individual being searched may be detained for up to four hours if he or she represents "a threat of particular gravity for security and public order" and has "habitual contact to persons or organizations with terrorist aims" or supports and adheres to ideas inciting to such acts. The law also authorizes police to seize any documents, objects or electronic data at the place being searched.

Radicalized Public Servants. A civil servant working in fields related to national security or defense can be transferred or even dismissed from the public service if he or she is found to hold beliefs that are "incompatible with the exercise of his or her duties." Soldiers can also be discharged for similar motives.

Electronic Surveillance and Data Collection. The new law authorizes the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Transport to collect the telephone and email communications of suspicious individuals "for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offenses and serious crimes." The law also allows security services to access travel information, including from travel agencies, about airline and maritime passengers. Data collection "shall exclude personal data that may reveal a person's racial or ethnic origin, religious or philosophical beliefs, political opinions, trade union membership, or data relating to the health or sexual life of the person concerned."

Border Checks. The new law authorizes police to conduct warrantless identity checks at more than 118 border areas and 373 airports, seaports and train stations, as well as the surrounding areas up to a radius of 20 kilometers. This encompasses 28.6% of French territory and 67% of the French population, according to Le Monde. Critics say this includes many mainly immigrant suburbs and could lead to harassment of ethnic minorities.

Macron insisted that the new law will allow authorities to combat terrorism "without abandoning our values and principles" and that it will enshrine "full and permanent respect for France's constitutional order and traditions of liberty." He also pledged to review the law in two years and to make any changes deemed necessary.

Pictured: Police patrol the Champs-Élysées in Paris after a terrorist attack on April 21, 2017, in which one police officer was killed and another wounded. (Photo by Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images)

Marine Le Pen, the leader of the anti-immigration National Front party, criticized the law for being too weak:

"This law is a scam, it is a sub-state of emergency, we will not vote for this harmful text. It will be even less effective than the state of emergency because it is less applicable. This text does not address either the specific Islamic dimension of terrorism or the Islamist ideology that has declared war on us."

Civil rights groups, by contrast, complained about what they have described as a "normalization of emergency powers." Human Rights Watch wrote:

"The law takes elements of emergency practices — intrusive search powers, restrictions on individuals that have bordered on house arrest, closure of places of worship — that have been used abusively since November 2015, and makes them normal criminal and administrative practice. It does all this in a way that weakens the judiciary's control over and ability to check against abuse in the way the new counterterrorism powers are used by prefects, the Interior Ministry's appointed delegates in each region."

Amnesty International echoed these concerns:

"Rather than ushering in a period of restored freedoms and civil liberties, the legislation threatens to do the opposite by embedding a raft of repressive measures into ordinary law."

The new law has encountered little resistance from the public. A September 26 poll conducted for Le Figaro found that 57% of respondents said they were in favor of the new law; 62% of respondents said the measure will infringe on civil liberties; 85% said it would improve their security.

More than 230 people have been killed in jihadist attacks in France since January 2015, when Islamic radicals attacked the headquarters of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in central Paris.

The latest fatalities occurred on October 1, when a 29-year-old illegal immigrant from Tunisia stabbed two women to death at the central train station in Marseille. The man, identified as Ahmed A., was using seven different identities and had a long history of petty crime. He had been arrested just days before the attack for shoplifting, but those charges were dropped due to a lack of evidence. It remains unclear why he was never deported.

French police and intelligence services are surveilling around 15,000 jihadists living on French soil, Le Journal du Dimanche reported on October 9. Of these, some 4,000 are at "the top of the spectrum" and most likely to carry out an attack.

Of the 1,900 French jihadists fighting with the Islamic State, as many as one-fifth have received as much as €500,000 ($580,000) in social welfare payments from the French state, Le Figaro revealed on October 26.

**Iceland Volcano: Europe’s Bane**

Last week, the 6,591-foot tall Bardarbunga, a “powerful and versatile” volcano, was rattled by the four largest earthquakes since it last erupted in 2014. The earthquakes, measuring in magnitudes of 3.9, 3.2, 4.7, and 4.7 on the Richter scale, struck the caldera region over several days last weekend. Another magnitude 4.1 earthquake hit the 200km long and 25km wide volcanic system earlier last week and several tremors struck in September.

Páll Einarsson, a volcanology expert at the University of Iceland, said the latest quakes are part of a series that have been “in progress for two years”. Speaking exclusively to Daily Star Online, he said the volcano is “clearly preparing for its next eruption” within the next few years.

Fears are spiking even higher when considering the earthquake swarm that has been rocking the French Alps recently.

The 10,000-year-old volcano spewed out large volumes of sulfur dioxide during its last seven-month eruption which took place between August of 2014 and February of 2015. Although the eruption did not disrupt any flights, the emissions harshly impacted the air quality in Iceland, leading to health consequences across the country.

In spite of describing the volcanoes activity as “high”, the Icelandic Met Office has yet to issue any warnings about the possibility of Bardarbunga’s eruption. In fact, the warning code remains green; meaning the volcano is in a normal, non-eruptive state, according to the volcano monitor.

Seven years ago Iceland’s massive Eyjafjallajökull volcano erupted, spewing a choking veil of ash across Europe. Residents worry as memories of the 2014 eruption and the flight chaos caused by the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano resurface. **The deadly volcanic dust wiped out skies and grounded 100,000 flights,** [**resulting in the economy losing £4 billion.**](https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/656398/iceland-bardarbunga-volcano-eruption-four-earthquakes-2010-eyjafjallaj-kull)Should an eruption of Bardarbunga take place, it’s highly possible that there would be another even more drastic air travel restriction and poorer air quality, and could even lead to a drop in global temperatures. Given the peculiar solar performance, the La Nina forming in the Pacific, and efforts taken by governments to force down the production of carbon dioxide, we could have the perfect ingredients for an ice age triggered by an Icelandic Volcano.

**The War Against Liberty**

To be clear, the globalist elite’s biggest enemy is liberty. And liberty’s best defender is Donald Trump with his army of Armed Americans. Well, Billionaire hedge fund managers Paul Singer and George Soros define the ideological boundaries of the globalist opposition to the Trump agenda. Neither hesitates to use his substantial financial resources to stymie the populist conservative economic nationalist policies of the “Make America Great Again” coalition.

The payments by Singer-owned Washington Free Beacon to GPS Fusion for “opposition research” on candidate Donald Trump in early 2016 and the recent announcement by Soros that he was transferring billions of dollars in his own personal wealth to his Open Society Foundations are cases in point.

“The Washington Free Beacon on Friday confirmed it had originally funded research compiled by the firm Fusion GPS. But leaders from the Free Beacon, which is funded in large part by the Republican donor Paul Singer, insisted that none of the early research it received appears in the dossier released later in the year detailing explosive allegations, many uncorroborated, about Trump compiled by a former British spy,” the Associated Press reported on Friday.

The amount Singer has invested in the Free Beacon has not been publicly disclosed, but the Daily Caller, another conservative news site, was launched in 2010 with a $3 million investment from billionaire Foster Friess. Similar opposition research projects such as the one the Free Beacon purchased from GPS Fusion on Donald Trump easily cost six figures, though, Matt Continetti, the site’s managing editor, has not specified the cost involved, though he has admitted engaging GPS Fusion, an operation most closely identified with Democrats.

Subsequent to the completion of the “opposition research” project on Trump for the Free Beacon, the Democratic National Committee and the Hillary Clinton campaign, through an intermediary, apparently hired GPS Fusion to conduct the “opposition research” on Trump that resulted in the widely discredited “Russian dossier” on the Trump that included the salacious and false tales involving Russian prostitutes.

Before the rise of the “Make America Great Again Coalition,” Singer and Soros might have been viewed as diametrically opposed political enemies, but in the fall of 2017 they are simply seen as the philosophical bookends of the globalist ideology of those who oppose the Trump agenda–Never Trumpers among the Republicans, and the “Resistance” among Democrats and the far left.

According to Open Secrets, for instance, Singer donated over $26 million “campaign contributions to federal candidates, parties, political action committees, 527 organizations, and Carey committees” during the 2016 election cycle, every penny of which went to Republicans or conservatives.

Soros, in contrast, donated over $21 million during the same time period, all to Democrats or liberals. Adding the $5.7 million his son Alexander Soros donated, again, all of it to Democrats and liberals, Soros father and son donated almost the same amount to Democrats or liberals that Singer donated to Republicans or conservatives.

But despite their support for candidates and causes from the two ostensibly different political parties, Singer and Soros had as many commonalities in terms of the policies they supported as they did differences.

This is not surprising given the fact that they are both immensely wealthy hedge fund managers who largely created their wealth on their own.

George Soros, age 87, currently ranks #20 in the Forbes 400 list of the wealthiest Americans with an estimated net worth of $8 billion:

George Soros is a legendary hedge fund manager who managed client money in New York from 1969 to 2011. Soros remains an investing heavyweight through Soros Fund Management, his family office that boasts $26 billion in assets. Born in Hungary, Soros fled the country and put himself through the London School of Economics working as a railway porter and waiter. A philanthropist and supporter of liberal causes, Soros founded the Open Society Foundations. It has had expenditures of nearly $14 billion.

Paul Singer, age 73, currently ranks #288 in the Forbes 400 list of the wealthiest Americans with an estimated net worth of $2.8 billion:

Paul Singer founded his hedge fund firm, Elliott Management, in 1977 with just $1.3 million. The firm now has some $33 billion in assets under management. Elliott Management often takes activist positions, shaking up companies and even governments around the world. In 2016 the hedge fund firm settled a 15-year battle with the government of Argentina over bond payments, earning a $2.4 billion profit.

While the two men differ on their approach to economic policy–Singer favors a more free market approach, especially as it relates to financial markets, while Soros favors “paternalistic” government intervention–they share a globalist world view that rejects the national economic sovereignty views that spearheaded Trump’s political success in the 2016 Presidential election.

The two are in lock step when it comes to immigration policy–they both want open borders–and government control of education–they both support Common Core.

Indeed, as Breitbart has reported extensively, both men have contributed significant funds to the National Immigration Forum, a far left open borders group that led the charge behind the failed “Gang of Eight” illegal amnesty bill in the Senate in 2013.

In April 2013, Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum Action Fund and issued this press release through the National Immigration Forum announcing Singer’s financial support for the group’s pro-amnesty efforts:

Following the Senate introduction of bipartisan immigration reform legislation, the National Immigration Forum Action Fund received a strong show of support from hedge fund billionaire Paul Singer to continue the bipartisan effort for common sense immigration solutions.

Mr. Singer is the founder and CEO of Elliott Management, and is providing a six-figure contribution to the National Immigration Forum Action Fund’s “Bibles, Badges and Business” project to encourage Republicans and Democrats to support immigration reform that strengthens our nation’s competitiveness and helps us attract the world’s best talent and hard workers.

The passionate level of involvement and cooperation from both Republicans and Democrats on immigration reform sends a resounding message that this immigration battle is different than that of decades past. Rather than fall back into the stagnation and polarization that plagues so many of today’s political disagreements, immigration reform has produced robust coalitions and unlikely collaborations. This donation by Paul Singer is one of many signs from business leaders that American businesses are not sitting on the sidelines for this immigration reform battle.

The bipartisan Senate bill is a strong start. It includes the core elements necessary for reform like commonsense fixes to our legal immigration system that ensures our competitiveness

Soros’s own support for the pro-amnesty, open borders National Immigration Forum is also well documented. In 2009, [George Soros’s Open Society Foundations] donated $257,152 to [the National Immigration Forum] aimed at “implementing immigration reform campaign through communications, policy, and field organizing.”

Also in 2009, [OSF] donated another $1.5 million to “allow” NIF to “manage and lead Four Pillars Campaign for comprehensive immigration reform, and sustain core policy work supporting and leading policy efforts.”

A year later, in 2010, Soros’s [OSF] gave NIF another $1.5 million over two separate grants both intended for “general operating support.”

As Breitbart News noted last week, “Singer’s involvement in the dossier, and opposition research on Trump more generally, comports with a years-long pattern of advocacy for mass immigration, massive funding of establishment GOP candidates, and antagonism towards the populist-nationalist movement.”

Along with George Soros and the left-wing Ford Foundation, Singer gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to the pro-open borders National Immigration Forum (NIF). The NIF later set up and funded the sham grassroots Christian group “Evangelical Immigration Table” to create the illusion of widespread conservative Christian support for mass third-world immigration. As Breitbart News uncovered, the Evangelical Immigration Table (EIT) never was an independent legal entity and existed only as a front for the NIF. Singer directly funded the effort, as Breitbart News and USA Today reported at the time.

This did not stop establishment Republicans, including the editors of the once-definitive conservative publication National Review, from latching onto the EIT as a genuine font of anti-Trump grassroots activism.

The Wall Street hedge-fund billionaire Singer was an early – and significant – backer of “Gang of Eight” amnesty ringleader Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) in the 2016 campaign. This support made good on the two men’s years-long relationship based, in large part, on their mutual belief in the most recent major campaign for amnesty for illegal aliens and massive immigration increases in 2013.

Both men also back Common Core.

As Breitbart News reported back in 2015, Singer, “who is endorsing Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), is a supporter of the Common Core standards and his foundation has been a donor to the heart of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s education empire: the Foundation for Excellence in Education.”

Singer, who recently threw his support behind Rubio, founded the Paul E. Singer Foundation, whose work thus far has “focused on supporting research and scholars in the areas of free-market economics, the rule of law, U.S. national security, and the future of Israel, as well as LGBT equality efforts and health-care delivery innovation.”

“The Foundation seeks to leverage its own philanthropic investments by partnering with proven non-profits and like-minded donors,” states the Singer Foundation website. In each year from 2009 through 2014, Singer’s foundation donated between $50,001-$100,000 to Bush’s Foundation for Excellence in Education (FEE).

One group that is an affiliate of FEE is Chiefs for Change – a “bipartisan coalition of current and former state education chiefs who believe that American public education can be dramatically improved.” Some “Chiefs for Change” are also members of the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), one of the two federally funded interstate consortia that have been developing tests aligned with the Common Core standards.

Additionally, Bush joined with former president of the pro-Common Core Fordham Institute Chester Finn and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Conservatives for Higher Standards, a group that promotes the Common Core standards initiative.

FEE’s donor list also includes the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the GE Foundation, the Helmsley Charitable Trust, News Corp, the Walton Family Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Carnegie Corporation, the Schwab Foundation, Microsoft, Exxon Mobil, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Intel, K12, Pearson, Scholastic, and Target.

Soros’s Open Society Foundations remain a financial supporter of Generation Citizen. That support “will allow us to improve our curriculum in a number of ways, including further alignment with the US Department of Education Common Core Standards,” the group’s website states.

**Rand Paul Attached While Mowing Lawn.**

Rand Paul was recovering Sunday from five broken ribs, including three displaced fractures, after he was assaulted by a neighbor who tackled him from behind at the senator’s Kentucky home, officials said.

Senior Adviser Doug Stafford said it is unclear when the Republican senator will return to work since he is in “considerable pain” and has difficulty getting around, including flying. Stafford said this type of injury is marked by severe pain that can last for weeks to months.

“This type of injury is caused by high velocity severe force,” Stafford said a statement to Fox News.

The Bowling Green Daily News [reported](http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/bg-man-charged-with-assaulting-paul-at-senator-s-home/article_e0d36d03-f357-5161-8267-3aa317e978c7.html) that an arrest warrant said Paul told police his neighbor came on his property and tackled him from behind Friday, forcing him to the ground, all while the senator had been mowing his lawn. He had trouble breathing because of the rib injury, the warrant said.

A Warren County official did not immediately respond to a request from The Associated Press for a copy of the arrest warrant.

Police arrested 59-year-old Rene Boucher on Saturday and charged him with misdemeanor fourth-degree assault with a minor injury. Boucher lives next door to Paul and his wife, according to Warren County property records.

Boucher was released from jail Saturday on a $7,500 bond. He has a court date scheduled for Thursday. Boucher did not return a phone call from The Associated Press seeking comment. It is unclear if he has an attorney.

[[](http://video.foxnews.com/v/5635428317001/man-arrested-for-assaulting-sen-rand-paul)Video](http://video.foxnews.com/v/5635428317001/man-arrested-for-assaulting-sen-rand-paul)

#### [Man arrested for assaulting Sen. Rand Paul](http://video.foxnews.com/v/5635428317001/man-arrested-for-assaulting-sen-rand-paul)

“Displaced rib fractures can lead to life-threatening injuries such as: hemopneumothorax, pneumothorax, pneumonia, internal bleeding, laceration of internal organs and lung contusions.  Senator Paul does have lung contusions currently,” Stafford explained.

Sunday’s disclosures come a day after Paul’s office said the senator was fine and characterized his injuries as minor.

Paul and his wife, Kelley, “appreciate everyone’s thoughts and well wishes and he will be back fighting for liberty in the Senate soon,” Stafford said.

Paul was the lone GOP nay on the budget framework for tax reform, although his position on tax reform itself appears to be on the edge. The Trump administration has suggested that Paul is a yea on tax reform. The GOP only can lose two votes on tax reform before needing Vice President Mike Pence to break a tie.

Paul’s health could be another factor in the White House’s race to finish tax reform ― along with the health of Sens. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., and John McCain, R-Ariz.

Boucher is an anesthesiologist and a pain specialist. He invented the “Therm-A-Vest,” a cloth vest partially filled with rice that when heated can be worn to relieve back pain, according to a 2005 article from the [Bowling Green Daily News](http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/vest-a-relief-for-pain/article_e98ef11a-1689-5309-b762-da4c0ed29eeb.html).

A spokeswoman for Paul said he was “blindsided” by the attack, but did not provide more details. Police have not said what motivated the attack. Kentucky State Police Master Trooper Jeremy Hodges said the FBI is checking to see if the attack was politically motivated.

FBI spokesman David Habich said the agency is aware of the incident and is “working with our state and local partners to determine if there was a violation of federal law.”

The attack was a shock for the community in Bowling Green, where a neighbor says he would often see Paul and Boucher out walking their dogs on the normally quiet streets. Jim Skaggs, a member of the state Republican Party executive committee, lives in the neighborhood and has known both men for years. He said they disagreed politically, but was shocked to hear of the incident.

“They were as far left and right as you can be,” Skaggs said. “We had heard of no friction whatsoever other than they just were difference of political opinion. Both of them walked their little dogs at about a mile and a half circle, a nice little dog trot. I’d see them out walking, maybe they might stop and speak with each other.”

**The Immigrant Song**

**President Donald Trump signaled on Twitter that he was prepared to crack down on immigration visa programs in the wake of the terrorist attack in New York City.**

“We are fighting hard for Merit Based immigration, no more Democrat Lottery Systems,” Trump wrote on Twitter. “We must get MUCH tougher (and smarter).”

Trump criticized the program that allowed the suspected terrorist, Sayfullo Saipov, into the United States who allegedly killed eight and injured 11 people with a rented Home Depot truck on Tuesday.

“The terrorist came into our country through what is called the ‘Diversity Visa Lottery Program,’ a Chuck Schumer beauty,” Trump said. “I want merit based.”

The program was part of a bill [introduced](http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/11/01/nyc-terror-attack-suspect-sayfullo-saipov-entered-us-through-diversity-visa-program.html) in 1990 by Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., while he was still serving in the House of Representatives.

The president appeared to be watching Fox and Friends for updates about the attack, quoting a guest on the show.

”’Senator Chuck Schumer helping to import Europes problems,’” said Col.Tony Shaffer,” Trump wrote. “We will stop this craziness!”

What craziness are we talking about? The Democrats’ Senate leader, N.Y. Sen. Chuck Schumer helped create the diversity visa program which reportedly provided a green card to the Islamic immigrant who allegedly killed eight New Yorkers on October 31.

The diversity visa program was created in 1990 by then-Rep. Schumer in response to Irish lobbies in his New York district. Twenty-seven years later, it annually awards 50,000 visas by annual lottery to entrants from around the world, ensuring a cascade of subsequent chain-migrants.

An August poll shows that only one-in-six Americans strongly favors the program, despite much political and media pressure to welcome migrants. Politico and Morning Consult conducted the poll of 1,992 registered voters, which showed:

Other polls show that the public strongly opposes elements of the program which offers green cards to people with few skills, little earning ability and little ability to assimilate into the United States’ non-Islamic society.

President Donald Trump and several GOP legislators, including Georgia Sen David Perdue and Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, has called for the diversity visa program to be ended. But the program is praised by progressives for imposing variety on Americans’ civic society. According to a progressive website, Qz.com:

Supporters believe the DV program, despite its relatively small size is essential in keeping the US a truly multicultural society by providing an opportunity for people from communities that aren’t largely represented in recent immigration flows to have a shot at America.

Schumer’s diversity visa plan was included in the House-approved “Family Unity and Employment Opportunity Immigration Act of 1990” when it was combined with a proposal by a Democratic from Boston. The resulting “Schumer visa” measure was included in the completed Immigration Act of 1990, which also raised the annual inflow of legal immigrants up from 500,000 up to 700,000. The bill was signed by then-President George H.W. Bush.

The diversity visa program offers green cards to 50,000 lottery applicants each year. Lottery winners undergo a State Department interview and health check, and can then bring their spouses and minor children to the United States and get them on a five-year track to citizenship.

Once a winner and a spouse become citizens, they can import their parents, their in-laws and their children, plus the parents of their in-laws, such as the winner’s spouse’s sister’s husband’s parents. In turn, the relatives can later become citizens and import their relatives. The chain-migration process does not set any skill tests for admission, and so delivers a growing flow of unskilled and uneducated — and often ill, elderly and retired migrants — to the nation’s extensive welfare system.

One of the Schumer-visa winners was Sayfulloh Saipov, an immigrant from Uzbekistan or neighboring Kyrgyzstan, who got his green card in 2010. He is reportedly the driver who killed eight New Yorkers — likely all of whom were Schumer’s constituents — by hitting them with a rented truck.

WABC-NY reports: “Authorities say he came to the United States seven years ago … under what is called the Diversity Visa Program, which offers a lottery for people from countries with few immigrants in America.”

Schumer’s support for greater immigration was also visible in 2013 when he joined and pushed the so-called “Gang of Eight” amnesty-and-cheap-labor bill.

That push proved disastrous to Schumer and the Democratic Party because it provided an impetus for New York real-estate developer Donald Trump to run for the presidency in 2016, and it also helped flip nine Democratic seats in the 2014 Senate elections.

**Natural Selection Experts Say Aliens Look Like us**

They're regularly depicted in science fiction blockbusters as other-worldly, monster-like beings. But a new study suggests that in reality, aliens could be more similar to us than thought. The researchers indicate that aliens are potentially shaped by the same processes that shaped humans, such as natural selection, and that they may even 'look like us.'

Researchers from the University of Oxford have shown for the first time how evolutionary theory can be used to predict alien behavior. Their theory supports the argument that foreign life forms undergo natural selection, and like us, are evolving to be stronger over time.

Okay, I have to scientifically argue against two erroneous assumptions here. First of all, there is no such thing as a theory of evolution. I mean, there is of course in popular literature, but in science there is no such thing. The scientific method is rigorous, and it goes like this:

1. The scientist forms a hypothesis.
2. The scientist conducts experiments, collects samples, and makes quantitative measurements to form data. A fact is a direct and measureable observation.
3. If that data supports the hypothesis, a theory is formed and submitted for peer review.
4. If the theory is not disproven by independent research with a new set or a repeated set of experiments, with the collection of new samples, and the formation of new data treatments, then the theory is accepted.
5. If the theory stands the test of time, then it becomes the applicable postulate, axiom, or theorem.

Now, herein lies the issue with the supposed theory of evolution. There are no facts. There are no experiments that have produced a single new species. Short of gene splicing, there are zero examples of any species forming from another species. There are no missing links, transitional fossils, birds that were fish, horses that were dogs, or men who were apes. Live, dead, or fossilized.

The second argument is with the assumption that man originated here on Earth and has undergone natural selection, and that aliens would therefore look like us because the Earth would change them.

First of all, if nature designed humans for this world, we would not look like this. We would not require shelter 85% of the time or fire to stay warm in the winter. We would not be hairless. We would not be night blind. We would not have such poor hearing. We would have gone extinct with our poor sense of smell. We would have much more fast red muscle, and our bone density would be 50% greater than it is. Women would have 2-4 children at a time. There would be no diseases like diabetes, asthma, or Crone’s disease. Those diseases would have been bred out of our DNA millennia ago. Every single thing I just mentioned proves beyond any doubt whatsoever that we are alien to this world. Just like any alien, we come here with our own traits and our own genetic makeup. The most peculiar thing about this observation is that all life on this planet is built from the same amino acids arranged differently. DNA is the proto-protein for the genetic makeup of any form of life.

In other words, it is the first protein, from which all proteins are made. Each Gene has a wide variety of macro-molecular proteins that they can form through an environmentally impacted form of unfolding and folding. A human has less gene pairs than an ape, by about 50%. And yet, we make a massive list of proteins. By the way, that environment is made of four different aspects.

The habitat along with climate, radiation, and respiratory gasses. The nourishment. The toxins and antigens. The energy and activity of the spirit inside that body, and around which that body dwells.

These aspects impact the genetic production of proteins, altering the appearance and performance of the body within the parameters of the molecular set available to the organism. Simply put, the organism will vary itself depending upon applications inside those aspects within a somewhat narrow range of possibilities.

Mr. Sam Levin, lead author of this published study, said: 'A fundamental task for astrobiologists (those who study life in the cosmos) is thinking about what extra-terrestrial life might be like.

“But making predictions about aliens is hard. We only have one example of life - life on Earth - to extrapolate from. Past approaches in the field of astrobiology have been largely mechanistic, taking what we see on Earth, and what we know about chemistry, geology, and physics to make predictions about aliens.

“In our paper, we offer an alternative approach, which is to use evolutionary theory to make predictions that are independent of Earth's details. 'This is a useful approach, because theoretical predictions will apply to aliens that are silicon based, do not have DNA, and breathe nitrogen, for example.”

Just to be clear, there are no examples of silicon-based life forms. Oxygen, Helium, Carbon, and Hydrogen make up about 99.49% of the mass of the universe. Silicon is the 8th most common element of the universe and makes up only 0.07% of its total mass. It does make up 25% of the earth’s crust, but it has a melting point of nearly 6,000 degrees and is about as inert as, well, sand.

Using the idea of alien natural selection as a framework, the researchers addressed extra-terrestrial evolution, and how complexity will arise in space. On Earth, Levin says that species have become more complex as a result of a handful of ancient, and then a long exposure to the stresses of the environment. There is a major problem with this statement. It violates the 1st and 2nd laws of thermodynamics:

* [First law of thermodynamics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_law_of_thermodynamics): When energy passes, as [work](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Work_(thermodynamics)), as [heat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat), or with matter, into or out from a system, the system's [internal energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internal_energy) changes in accord with the law of [conservation of energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservation_of_energy).
* [Second law of thermodynamics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_law_of_thermodynamics): In a natural [thermodynamic process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermodynamic_process), the sum of the [entropies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entropy) of the interacting [thermodynamic systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermodynamic_system) increases.

Now, there are two things that we must concede here. First, there may be additional energy available from outside sources. Second, life may not be a natural thermodynamic process. But, biology certainly is, and will not tend toward more complex forms, unless there is a distinct advantage to the procreation of that species. Even then each individual genetic selection must provide this advantage and not as a collective mechanism. In other words, nature would not ask a creature to pack around useless protein in hopes that additional molecules will suddenly make it functional in providing that organism the advantage.

Data suggests that extreme conditions are required for major transitions to occur - and the same may be true for aliens. I can scarcely think of a more major transition than having your race moved from one solar system to another.

I can tell you that beings living on other worlds look differently than beings here. Some are very tall, compared to here, and have more vertebrae and additional joints in the fingers and toes compared to humans. Our hands and feet have three sesamoid bones, and their hands and feet have four. They have an additional finger that acts like an opposing little finger as well, and the toes are straight like a humans. The four joints assist in running, swimming, and climbing. They do not have an opposing digit like an ape, or a dew claw like a dog or cat in their feet. They have better sense of smell, larger pupils in their eyes, and their skin has a natural golden tone to it able to withstand hundreds of years of exposure to solar radiation through rapid replacement with a UV resistant DNA.

I can tell you that some of them are very short, barely three feet tall, and they have no propensity for aggression. They have a similar facial expression line a Downs Syndrome child, and their social structure requires no laws, no police, and they naturally bond for life.

In terms of looks, these researchers make a number of predictions about aliens which are not based in fact. In terms of looks, the researchers make a number of predictions about aliens that are not based in facts of any kind. Mr. Levin said: 'We still can't say whether aliens will walk on two legs or have big green eyes. I can tell you that their eyes are naturally brown for the shorter race I mentioned, and they range from blue to gold in color for the taller race. The pupils are round, very large compared to the average human eye, and the lens is extremely clear and able to see sharply for very long distances similar to a bird of prey.

'Mr. Levin believes evolutionary theory, and I clearly do not. If you are a scientist, you should not either.

Questions for Mike Bara

1. Have there been alien races anciently on the Earth?
2. Are there remnants of aliens still here on the Earth?
3. Do you think alien settlements exist on the Earth, under the sea, or in the interior of the Earth to this day?
4. Of these mysterious, unexplainable structures made with materials or in locations that are impossible to reconcile, why do they appear to have religious applications? I mean, why are they pointed at certain stars or try to remind mankind of some point of origin or a future destination?
5. Like, for instance, the Mayan Calendar pointed to a certain date of December 21st, 2012 like some sort of cosmic root canal was going to take place?
6. There is hardly a day goes by between UFO sightings on Earth. Do you think that aliens live on Earth with us now?
7. Do you think they have lived on other planets in our solar system?
8. Is there any record on what they might look like?
9. Why do you think aliens came all the way out here to the edge of the Milky Way?
10. What is their purpose for hanging out on Earth, of all places?
11. Do you think there is evidence of craft her on Earth?
12. Obviously they can fly, because they’re still flying around, but do you think they have the ability to leave Earth and go to other planets? Solar systems?
13. Do you think that these craft have ever been directly observed up close? Pictures? Inside the ship?
14. Is there any structure on Earth that you believe was made by aliens? Why build it and then leave?
15. Do you think the ancients thought we would ever evolve to this level of advancement?
16. Do you think there will be a conflict between aliens and humans? Cooperation? Have we, or will we ever have a common enemy with the aliens who are here?
17. Do you think that aliens are born here on this world? Where do the souls come from who occupy the bodies of aliens?
18. Do you think that mankind will ever settle on another world?
19. Do you think we ever did it before? Do you think ancient man came from another world or was brought here like some sort of cosmic exile?
20. What do you think about the future of a Moon base or settlement?
21. Do you think man needs to explore the universe for a place to expand the human race?
22. Do you suspect there is a way to live inside the Moon like perhaps in one of the volcanic tubes that have been located on the Moon?
23. Do you think that the various probes that have been sent to the Moon discovered anything they’re not telling us that might have something to do with aliens?
24. Do you think NASA ever put a man on the Moon?

**Hacked: Donna Brazile is Not With her**

Before I called Bernie Sanders, I lit a candle in my living room and put on some gospel music. I wanted to center myself for what I knew would be an emotional phone call.

I had promised Bernie when I took the helm of the Democratic National Committee after the convention that I would get to the bottom of whether Hillary Clinton’s team had rigged the nomination process, as a cache of emails stolen by Russian hackers and posted online had suggested. I’d had my suspicions from the moment I walked in the door of the DNC a month or so earlier, based on the leaked emails. But who knew if some of them might have been forged? I needed to have solid proof, and so did Bernie.

Story Continued Below

So I followed the money. My predecessor, Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, had not been the most active chair in fundraising at a time when President Barack Obama’s neglect had left the party in significant debt. As Hillary’s campaign gained momentum, she resolved the party’s debt and put it on a starvation diet. It had become dependent on her campaign for survival, for which she expected to wield control of its operations.

Debbie was not a good manager. She hadn’t been very interested in controlling the party—she let Clinton’s headquarters in Brooklyn do as it desired so she didn’t have to inform the party officers how bad the situation was. How much control Brooklyn had and for how long was still something I had been trying to uncover for the last few weeks.

By September 7, the day I called Bernie, I had found my proof and it broke my heart.

**The Saturday morning after** the convention in July, I called Gary Gensler, the chief financial officer of Hillary’s campaign. He wasted no words. He told me the Democratic Party was broke and $2 million in debt.

“What?” I screamed. “I am an officer of the party and they’ve been telling us everything is fine and they were raising money with no problems.”

That wasn’t true, he said. Officials from Hillary’s campaign had taken a look at the DNC’s books. Obama left the party $24 million in debt—$15 million in bank debt and more than $8 million owed to vendors after the 2012 campaign and had been paying that off very slowly. Obama’s campaign was not scheduled to pay it off until 2016. Hillary for America (the campaign) and the Hillary Victory Fund (its joint fundraising vehicle with the DNC) had taken care of 80 percent of the remaining debt in 2016, about $10 million, and had placed the party on an allowance.

If I didn’t know about this, I assumed that none of the other officers knew about it, either. That was just Debbie’s way. In my experience she didn’t come to the officers of the DNC for advice and counsel. She seemed to make decisions on her own and let us know at the last minute what she had decided, as she had done when she told us about the hacking only minutes before the *Washington Post* broke the news.

On the phone Gary told me the DNC had needed a $2 million loan, which the campaign had arranged.

“No! That can’t be true!” I said. “The party cannot take out a loan without the unanimous agreement of all of the officers.”

“Gary, how did they do this without me knowing?” I asked. “I don’t know how Debbie relates to the officers,” Gary said. He described the party as fully under the control of Hillary’s campaign, which seemed to confirm the suspicions of the Bernie camp. The campaign had the DNC on life support, giving it money every month to meet its basic expenses, while the campaign was using the party as a fund-raising clearing house. Under FEC law, an individual can contribute a maximum of $2,700 directly to a presidential campaign. But the limits are much higher for contributions to state parties and a party’s national committee.

Individuals who had maxed out their $2,700 contribution limit to the campaign could write an additional check for $353,400 to the Hillary Victory Fund—that figure represented $10,000 to each of the thirty-two states’ parties who were part of the Victory Fund agreement—$320,000—and $33,400 to the DNC. The money would be deposited in the states first, and transferred to the DNC shortly after that. Money in the battleground states usually stayed in that state, but all the other states funneled that money directly to the DNC, which quickly transferred the money to Brooklyn.

“Wait,” I said. “That victory fund was supposed to be for whoever was the nominee, and the state party races. You’re telling me that Hillary has been controlling it since before she got the nomination?”

Gary said the campaign had to do it or the party would collapse.

“That was the deal that Robby struck with Debbie,” he explained, referring to campaign manager Robby Mook. “It was to sustain the DNC. We sent the party nearly $20 million from September until the convention, and more to prepare for the election.”

“What’s the burn rate, Gary?” I asked. “How much money do we need every month to fund the party?”

Story Continued Below

The burn rate was $3.5 million to $4 million a month, he said.

I gasped. I had a pretty good sense of the DNC’s operations after having served as interim chair five years earlier. Back then the monthly expenses were half that. What had happened? The party chair usually shrinks the staff between presidential election campaigns, but Debbie had chosen not to do that. She had stuck lots of consultants on the DNC payroll, and Obama’s consultants were being financed by the DNC, too.

When we hung up, I was livid. Not at Gary, but at this mess I had inherited. I knew that Debbie had outsourced a lot of the management of the party and had not been the greatest at fundraising. I would not be that kind of chair, even if I was only an interim chair. Did they think I would just be a surrogate for them, get on the road and rouse up the crowds? I was going to manage this party the best I could and try to make it better, even if Brooklyn did not like this. It would be weeks before I would fully understand the financial shenanigans that were keeping the party on life support.

**Right around the time of the convention** the leaked emails revealed Hillary’s campaign was grabbing money from the state parties for its own purposes, leaving the states with very little to support down-ballot races. A *Politico* story published on May 2, 2016, described the big fund-raising vehicle she had launched through the states the summer before, quoting a vow she had made to rebuild “the party from the ground up … when our state parties are strong, we win. That’s what will happen.”

Yet the states kept less than half of 1 percent of the $82 million they had amassed from the extravagant fund-raisers Hillary’s campaign was holding, just as Gary had described to me when he and I talked in August. When the *Politico* story described this arrangement as “essentially … money laundering” for the Clinton campaign, Hillary’s people were outraged at being accused of doing something shady. Bernie’s people were angry for their own reasons, saying this was part of a calculated strategy to throw the nomination to Hillary.

I wanted to believe Hillary, who made campaign finance reform part of her platform, but I had made this pledge to Bernie and did not want to disappoint him. I kept asking the party lawyers and the DNC staff to show me the agreements that the party had made for sharing the money they raised, but there was a lot of shuffling of feet and looking the other way.

When I got back from a vacation in Martha’s Vineyard I at last found the document that described it all: the Joint Fund-Raising Agreement between the DNC, the Hillary Victory Fund, and Hillary for America.

The agreement—signed by Amy Dacey, the former CEO of the DNC, and Robby Mook with a copy to Marc Elias—specified that in exchange for raising money and investing in the DNC, Hillary would control the party’s finances, strategy, and all the money raised. Her campaign had the right of refusal of who would be the party communications director, and it would make final decisions on all the other staff. The DNC also was required to consult with the campaign about all other staffing, budgeting, data, analytics, and mailings.

I had been wondering why it was that I couldn’t write a press release without passing it by Brooklyn. Well, here was the answer.

When the party chooses the nominee, the custom is that the candidate’s team starts to exercise more control over the party. If the party has an incumbent candidate, as was the case with Clinton in 1996 or Obama in 2012, this kind of arrangement is seamless because the party already is under the control of the president. When you have an open contest without an incumbent and competitive primaries, the party comes under the candidate’s control only after the nominee is certain. When I was manager of Gore’s campaign in 2000, we started inserting our people into the DNC in June. This victory fund agreement, however, had been signed in August 2015, just four months after Hillary announced her candidacy and nearly a year before she officially had the nomination.

I had tried to search out any other evidence of internal corruption that would show that the DNC was rigging the system to throw the primary to Hillary, but I could not find any in party affairs or among the staff. I had gone department by department, investigating individual conduct for evidence of skewed decisions, and I was happy to see that I had found none. Then I found this agreement.

Story Continued Below

The funding arrangement with HFA and the victory fund agreement was not illegal, but it sure looked unethical. If the fight had been fair, one campaign would not have control of the party before the voters had decided which one they wanted to lead. This was not a criminal act, but as I saw it, it compromised the party’s integrity.

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**I had to keep my promise to Bernie**. I was in agony as I dialed him. Keeping this secret was against everything that I stood for, all that I valued as a woman and as a public servant.

“Hello, senator. I’ve completed my review of the DNC and I did find the cancer,” I said. “But I will not kill the patient.”

I discussed the fundraising agreement that each of the candidates had signed. Bernie was familiar with it, but he and his staff ignored it. They had their own way of raising money through small donations. I described how Hillary’s campaign had taken it another step.

I told Bernie I had found Hillary’s Joint Fundraising Agreement. I explained that the cancer was that she had exerted this control of the party long before she became its nominee. Had I known this, I never would have accepted the interim chair position, but here we were with only weeks before the election.

Bernie took this stoically. He did not yell or express outrage. Instead he asked me what I thought Hillary’s chances were. The polls were unanimous in her winning but what, he wanted to know, was my own assessment?

I had to be frank with him. I did not trust the polls, I said. I told him I had visited states around the country and I found a lack of enthusiasm for her everywhere. I was concerned about the Obama coalition and about millennials.

I urged Bernie to work as hard as he could to bring his supporters into the fold with Hillary, and to campaign with all the heart and hope he could muster. He might find some of her positions too centrist, and her coziness with the financial elites distasteful, but he knew and I knew that the alternative was a person who would put the very future of the country in peril. I knew he heard me. I knew he agreed with me, but I never in my life had felt so tiny and powerless as I did making that call.

When I hung up the call to Bernie, I started to cry, not out of guilt, but out of anger. We would go forward. We had to.

By the way,   
I, me, my,” were used a total of 163 times in this 2,108 word story.

**Little Kim’s Little Shop of Horrors**

KIM GO BOOM?

# North Korea could be readying another missile test after ‘brisk activity’ at Kim Jong-un’s nuclear research facility, reports claim

South Korea's spy agency anticipates the latest ballistic rocket launch following Kim's September nuke test which caused three aftershocks. South Korea’s spy agency is anticipating another rocket launch insisting the crackpot state would continuously push to develop "miniaturised, diversified" warheads. The South’s National Intelligence Service (NIS) has spotted "active movement" of vehicles at Kim’s research centre in Pyongyang - indicating the war-hungry despot is preparing another test.

The NIS also mentioned damage to the Punggye-ri nuclear site in the north-east of the country after three aftershocks following the North’s sixth and most powerful nuclear test on September 3. Last month, a tunnel at the underground nuclear site reportedly collapsed killing up to 200 people.

The disaster happened at the remote Punggye-ri site on October 10, according to Japan’s TV Asahi. The disaster has prompted fears of a massive radioactive leak which could spark a Chernobyl- or Fukushima-style disaster. High resolution Satellite images show Mount Mantap pock-marked with craters from landslides after the last nuclear test. The entire facility is underground, but the mountains affected by the test blasts cover about 20 thousand acres. The bare spots scattered here and there throughout the forest show where the ground had been disrupted from the force of the blast. The last test was supposedly more than 200 kilotons. A blast that size would be about ten times the power of the Trinity blast.

A North Korean official said the collapse happened during the construction of an underground tunnel, South Korea’s [Yonhap](http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2017/10/31/0200000000AKR20171031150800073.HTML?sns=tw" \t "_blank) news agency reports.

Some 100 people are said to have been trapped by the initial tunnel collapse, with a further 100 lost in a second collapse during a rescue operation, Asahi reported Tuesday.

The accident is believed to have been [caused by Kim Jong-un’s sixth nuclear test](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2497570/north-korea-kim-jong-un-nuclear-weapons-missiles-tests-uk-range/) which weakened the mountain, according to the report.

It was reported earlier this year that [the mountain under which the base is believed to be hidden was at risk of collapsing and leaking radiation](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4401919/north-korea-latest-news-nuclear-weapons-testing-mountain-risk-collapse/) into the region.

[](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4824632/north-korea-missile-test-kim-jong-un-latest/)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspects what is claimed to be a hydrogen bomb that fits in the nose cone of a missile. Experts said if the peak crumbles, clouds of radioactive dust and gas would blanket the region, the South China Morning Post reported.

The Punggye-ri test site is carved deep into the side of Mount Mantap.

**Could World War Three actually happen?**

Tensions between the US and North Korea are said to be the most serious threat to world peace.

The US ambassador to the UN [told an emergency Security Council meeting North Korea is "begging for war"](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4389734/north-korea-kim-jong-un-begging-war-nikki-haley-un-security-council/) and called for "the strongest possible measures".

Trump has threatened military action and [warned North Korea it faces "total annihilation"](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4379935/donald-trump-north-korea-south-korea-attack-kim-jong-un-nuclear-test) if it threatens the US or its allies Japan and South Korea.

But [defiant Kim Jong-un threatened America with a "miserable end"](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4393618/north-korea-ballistic-missile-towards-west-coast-kim-jong-un-begging-for-war) as he reportedly moved a ballistic missile to the country's west coast, ready for another test launch.

He has previously [threatened to launch rockets at US Pacific island Guam](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4227166/panicking-guam-residents-nuclear-attack-guide-north-korea-us/) and [moved fighter jets to the coast to intercept US bombers](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4543242/white-house-blast-north-korea-us-war-declared-shoot-down-planes/) after accusing Trump of declaring war.

The past months have seen a series of alarming events that appear to have brought the two states to the brink of armed conflict:

* **April 9:** A US strike force was sent towards the western Pacific Ocean near the Korean peninsula.
* **April**: President Trump ramped up the pressure on China to take action against the secretive state by declaring the US would “solve the problem” alone if it did not step up.
* **April 14:** During parades marking 105 years since the state’s founder Kim Il-sung was born, [a devastating arsenal was on show](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3337066/north-korea-attempts-ballistic-missile-launch-but-it-explodes-almost-immediately-in-embarrassing-blow-for-kim-jong-un/) including a KN-08 rocket, thought to be capable of flying more than 7,000 miles – within range of Los Angeles, New York and Washington DC. But [experts have since questioned](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3343213/kim-jong-uns-terrifying-new-missiles-are-fake-and-north-korea-is-trying-to-fool-the-world/)if the weapons were genuine.
* Hours before the parade a top general had told North Korean state TV "we’re prepared to respond to an all-out war with an all-out war”.
* **April 15:** North Korea again enraged the US with a missile test but this time it was an embarrassing flop exploding almost immediately.
* **April 17:** US Vice President Mike Pence told Pyongyang the "era of patience is over" as he warned tubby tyrant Kim Jong-un not to test Trump as plans were made to send a missile defence system to South Korea earlier than planned.
* **April 19:** Vice President Mike Pence warned Kim Jong-un [the US would "defeat any attack"](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3361111/vice-president-mike-pence-warns-kim-jong-un-the-us-will-defeat-any-attack-in-sabre-rattling-speech-to-2500-cheering-sailors-on-uss-ronald-reagan/)as he spoke to soldiers aboard a massive aircraft carrier.
* **April 28:** North Korea launched a devastating attack on the US Capitol to spark World War Three in a [terrifying propaganda film.](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3432706/north-korea-propaganda-film-nuclear-bombs-us-capitol/)
* **May 2**: Kim Jong-un warned that it[would be a "piece of cake" to nuke Japan](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3466204/north-korea-kim-jong-un-nuke-japan-nuclear-war/) - warning that those who tried to retaliate and their supports would not be safe
* **May 11**: The hermit state said that it has the right to [“ruthlessly punish”](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3540718/north-korea-vows-to-ruthlessly-punish-captured-us-citizens/) any US citizens after it [detained a fourth American](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3501849/us-citizen-arrested-in-north-korea/) at the start of May
* **May 5:** Pyongyang announced it would seek the extradition of anyone involved in what it says was a [CIA-backed plot](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3488473/north-korea-cia-kim-jong-un-lumberjack-assassination-attempt-biochemical/) to kill leader Kim Jung-un with a biochemical poison
* **June 13:** North Korea threatened to nuke Trump's home town of New York [after he mocked the missile programme](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3789147/north-korea-nuclear-strike-new-york-threat-donald-trump/).
* **July 5:** [North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3941122/donald-trump-twitter-north-korea-kim-jong-un-intercontinental-ballistic-missile/) which analysts say has a range of 6,700 kilometres and brings Alaska within reach. Pyongyang later said it was a “landmark” test of a Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile.  Trump responded with an tweet saying; "Does this guy have anything better to do with his life?".
* **July 31:**It was reported that [Donald Trump was ready to order a military strike](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4130488/us-air-force-unleashes-supersonic-bombers-in-north-korea-nuke-drill-as-its-claimed-donald-trump-is-poised-to-launch-military-strike-against-the-rogue-state/)against a North Korean nuclear weapons facility hidden beneath a mountain range.
* **August 8:**Trump warned North Korea faces [“fire and fury” if  it threatens the US – as intelligence documents reveal Kim Jong-un](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4200603/donald-trump-north-korea-fire-fury-threaten-nuclear-missile-ready-latest/) has made mini nukes to attach to his new rockets
* **August 10:**North Korean state media said it was planning to launch [four rockets towards the US territory of Guam](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4210187/donald-trump-nuclear-war-north-korea-kim-jong-un-guam/).
* **August 10:** Trump declared [North Korea "better get their act together"](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4217871/us-north-korea-donald-trump-kim-jong-un-guam-missile-strike/) or they will be in trouble like "few nations have ever been". He also suggested he might not have been tough enough with his previous comments on the rogue state.
* **August 11:**The Sun revealed Britain would play no part in a [military strike on the communist state in a move that was slammed](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4217949/britain-wont-back-donald-trump-on-military-strike-against-north-korea/) as “weak and ill-judged" by ex-Commander of British Forces Afghanistan Colonel Richard Kemp.
* **August 11:**Speaking from his New Jersey golf resort Trump told North Korea it would "truly regret" any action it takes against Guam.
* **August 12:**New satellite images of [North Korea bases appear to show the volatile state is overhauling its missile sub fleet.](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4231163/satellite-images-show-north-korea-is-revamping-missile-submarines-as-nuke-tension-with-us-grows/)
* **August 15:**North Korea [appeared to back down from an imminent strike](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4244563/kim-jong-un-inspects-plans-missile-guam-back-down/) by saying Kim Jong-un would watch "the foolish and stupid conduct of the Yankees" before deciding whether to fire on Guam.
* **August 28:**It was reported [that North Korea had fired a missile towards northern Japan.](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4341924/north-korea-fires-missile-towards-northern-japan-with-residents-warned-to-take-shelter/) Residents were called to take immediate shelter underground.
* **August 29:** Officials confirmed the North's missile launch. [The "unidentified projectile" hurtled over the country before breaking into pieces, according to South Korea's military](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4341924/north-korea-missile-launch-japan-kim-jong-un-latest/).
* **August 31:**The US [responded to Kim Jing-un's latest missile outrage with a terrifying show of strength](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4361741/us-nuke-capable-jets-drop-bombs-near-north-korea-border-after-donald-trump-warned-talking-was-not-the-answer/), dropping huge bombs near the North Korean border.
* **September 3:**The West awakes to the news [North Korea has detonated a nuclear device in a test](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4379935/north-korea-carries-out-nuclear-test-donald-trump/). The blast triggered an artificial earthquake six times larger than any previous test.
* **September 4:** James Mattis, the US Defense Secretary, warned of a "massive military response" to any threat from North Korea against the United States or its allies.
* **September 6:** North Korea promised [a "redoubling" of its nuclear arsenal](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4401534/north-korea-promises-a-counteroffensive-against-the-us-and-warns-of-catastrophic-consequences/) in response to threatened sanctions and warned the US faced "catastrophic consequences".
* **September 10/11:** Two Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missiles were test-fired with a range of more than 6,210 miles.
* **September 15**: [North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan and into the Pacific,](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4469623/north-korea-missile-launch-pyonyang-japan-guam) responding to new UN sanctions with its furthest-ever missile flight.
* **September 25:**North Korea threatened to[attack US warplanes and accused Donald Trump of declaring war](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4543242/north-korea-donald-trump-war-declared-shoot-down-planes/).
* **September 26:** North Korea moved[jet fighters to the coast to intercept US bombers.](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4543242/white-house-blast-north-korea-us-war-declared-shoot-down-planes/)
* **October 1:** [Trump says US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is “wasting his time”](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4590305/donald-trump-says-rex-tillerson-is-wasting-his-time-trying-to-negotiate-with-little-rocket-man-kim-jong-un/) trying to negotiate with “Little Rocket Man” Kim Jong-un.
* **October 3:** North Korea [threatened "suicidal" Japan with “nuclear clouds”](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4599795/kim-jong-un-warns-of-nuclear-clouds-over-suicidal-japan-as-he-brands-the-countrys-prime-minister-a-headless-chicken/) as it blasted Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s call for the world to pile more pressure on the rogue state.
* **October 7:** Trump issues chilling threat to North Korea, [insisting "only one thing will work"](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4635750/donald-trump-kim-jong-un-north-korea-missile-test/) when dealing with the rogue state.
* **October 21:** Supersonic US B-1B strategic bombers zoomed over South Korea as part of an air show prompting Kim to warn the Korean peninsula is on the “eve of explosion”
* **October 23:** Trump has put nuclear bombers back on 24-hour alert for the first time since the end of the Cold War.
* **October 31:** [US and Russian nuclear bombers fly near North Korea](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4801531/russia-and-the-us-send-nuclear-bombers-to-north-korea-as-tensions-soar-in-row-over-kim-jong-un/), while reports in Japan say a [Kim regime nuclear facility has collapsed](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4806082/north-korea-nuclear-base-collapses-killing-200-radioactive-leak-fears-latest-updates/) with 200 people inside.
* **Who would win the war?**
* It is impossible to say with any certainty who would win a conflict, particularly if other world superpowers were dragged into the battle.
* Donald Trump has said his first order as president was to renovate and modernize America's nuclear arsenal, which he claims is "now far stronger and more powerful than ever before".
* North Korea has been relentless in its nuclear tests and it is now believed [the rogue state has missiles capable of hitting US territories](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2497570/north-korea-kim-jong-un-nuclear-missiles-latest-war-trump).
* The US spends far more on its military than any other nation and is the only country in possession of fifth-gen fighter planes - 187 F-22 jets, plus the F-35 which is not yet out of the testing phase.
* But it may not have an advantage over the rest of the world for long as Russia is developing [a new stealth fighter nicknamed The Ghost](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4327314/russia-unveils-its-first-stealth-fighter-jet-nicknamed-the-ghost-but-experts-mock-its-outdated-engine/) and China is working on four.
* In terms of submarines, the US Navy has 14 ballistic missile submarines with a combined 280 nuclear missiles.
* They also possess four guided missile submarines with 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles each and 54 nuclear attack submarines.
* A recent report from the Rand Corporation - a think tank based in the US - suggested the next [major war could be fought with hypersonic missiles](https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/4616821/hypersonic-weapons-will-spark-devastating-global-conflict-by-making-powerful-nations-trigger-happy-think-tank-warns/) capable of travelling five times faster than cruise missiles.
* Richard Speier, lead author of the report and a political scientist at the Rand Corporation, said: "Hypersonic missile proliferation would increase the chances of strategic war."

**The Environmental Protectionist Agency**

This story will lay to rest the arguments that oil companies do not run the EPA. President Trump recently pulled the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) back from one of the more obvious attempts to shut down competition with global, multi-trillion dollar corporations, and the reactions have been fascinating. Former petroleum industry executives working inside the Agency plotted to roll back competition from U.S. biofuels, but the White House sided with rural communities, where renewable fuels are produced from farm-crops or agricultural waste.

Oil industry globalist elites in Washington were shocked and dismayed. The head of the petroleum lobby called it “astonishing” while the nation’s largest refining company accused opponents of “bullying” the massive oil industry. Another refiner suggested that it might sue President Trump for enforcing the law.

The cause of their manufactured angst is America’s Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), a 12-year-old policy that promotes clean, homegrown biofuels, saves consumers money at the pump, and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. The law serves as a pillar of the rural economy, ensuring that U.S. biofuels can reach consumers at the gasoline pump, breaking a once-solid monopoly on motor fuels. It also provides a critical cushion against price manipulation by foreign regimes, helping the average U.S. household save about $142 in gasoline expenses, according to the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

That’s why rural leaders like Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley cheered the administration’s position, noting that the EPA “should be commended for following through on President Trump’s commitment to biofuels and the RFS.” The only real shocker here was that oil companies were surprised by the president’s willingness to stand by his supporters in the American heartland.

Proclaiming that “family farmers are the backbone of America,” President Trump vowed time-and-again to “protect the corn-based ethanol and biofuels that power our country.” He was right to make that commitment. His vision has been a source of hope among agricultural communities where farm income plummeted in recent years, weighed down by a massive surplus of grain and the efforts of foreign nations to shut out U.S. farm exports.

From ruby-red Nebraska to moderate Michigan, rural voters cast decisive votes for a candidate who pledged to turn America’s vast agricultural resources into a tool to drive growth, enhance energy security, and lower the cost of fuel.

The Agency has supported and concocted junk science to manipulate several key specifications inside the biofuel industry. The public does not know this. Congress may be aware of this, but it is quite true. For instance, petroleum forces inside the EPA forced the residual methanol specification in biodiesel to be lowered from 2% to 0.2%. 2% can be achieved through simple low-cost distillation. The spec can only be achieved with another 90% investment in energy and equipment and risk to take the product to high temperatures and very high vacuum to achieve the spec. This additional cost raises the cost to produce biodiesel well about the cost to produce petroleum based diesel fuel.

Also, the EPA issued a junk science report in 2008 that claimed that biodiesel actually polluted more than petroleum diesel, during the entire production and consumption life cycle, which was a completely ridiculous claim. The publication allowed 50 major cities to opt out of their mandated biodiesel plan, sending dozens of refineries into bankruptcy. The only remaining refineries are owned by taxpayers and routinely lose money.

By the way, the cetane number for biodiesel is at least 15% better with biodiesel, and the resulting in more power. That means better fuel economy. Also, with the removal of sulfur from the diesel, there is no lubricity to the petroleum based fuel. Truckers add it back in by pouring biodiesel into their fuel tanks after fillup. The Calcium in the biofuel lubes the engines and greatly extends the life of motor. That biodiesel costs about $9 a quart. Go figure.

If the president really wanted to open a doorway for profitable biodiesel that would save motors, extend fuel economy, and reduce pollution, all he has to do is call for the certified residual methanol spec to be returned to 2%.

Farmers and voters were hurt by a plan first glimpsed in July, when the EPA proposed slashing total biofuel production, with deep cuts to cellulosic ethanol made from corn fiber, cobs, stalks, and other agricultural leftovers. This is essentially the free feedstock fuels made from non-food biomass. The end products are fuel and chelated biomass suitable for organic fertilizers. A second EPA notice in September would have rolled back biodiesel and a range of advanced biofuels. In order to cheat on rebate credits, oil industry executives inside the EPA attempted to attach ethanol credits to exported fuel. These credits could then be used by oil refiners to dodge the RFS.

None of these moves make sense, except to the global multi-trillion dollar oil companies. Cellulosic ethanol, for example, is poised to drive the next great wave of rural manufacturing. And while the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that food corn-based ethanol cuts emissions by 43 percent, research shows that the full lifecycle of some cellulosic biofuels actually pulls carbon from the atmosphere. The carbon that can be used by bacteria make sup about half the mass. The yield can be enhanced greatly with enzymes, but those cost about 50 cents per pound. Not using the enzymes greatly simplifies the manufacturing process, but doubles the amount of mass that has to be processed to get the same amount of ethanol.

Of course, ethanol added to gasoline is not very effective, as it reduces the power engines get from the fuel. The ethanol cannot be transported long distances or stored for long periods of time, because it is hydroscopic. That means, it must be blended as locally as possible. The energy return increases from a high of 85% is gasoline bends to 192% if it can be used to make biodiesel in a transesterification reaction. Currently, the commercial processes use Methanol, which is made from natural gas with wide price swings from winter to summer. Switching the industry to locally produced ethanol makes a more powerful diesel fuel and reduces the cost of the diesel.

That potential is now being realized, right in the heartland, but biodiesel production is best done in small plants for local markets, due to availability of feedstock.. Revolutionary plants in Iowa are churning out commercial volumes, some for the first time. And conventional ethanol producers are pioneering technology that can be attached to existing facilities, allowing local farmers to turn both grain and waste into fuel. Adding biodiesel reactors would also vastly enhance national security for decentralizing fuel production.

The RFS makes these innovations possible, ensuring that billions of dollars of investment capital aren’t diverted to Brazil and China. It has promoted America’s rise as the world leader in biofuel production and allows homegrown fuels to displace more than 500 million barrels of oil each year.

That progress will continue, according to a letter EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt recently sent – with President Trump’s full support – to lawmakers from across the Midwest. But the White House should be wary, as should lawmakers who support the president’s commitment to renewable fuels.

Well-positioned lobbyists and corrupt insider petroleum execcutives are working hard to manipulate the EPA. They want to ensure that homegrown biofuels, including cellulosic ethanol, remain stuck at 2017 levels. And they don’t care a whit about keeping President Trump’s promises to rural voters. We hope that the 36% reduction in the EPA will take place, and that intrastate concerns are taken away from federal control. But for the heartland, zero growth is unacceptable.