

# The Appalachian Messenger



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## The Useful and the Useless

By Robert Gore, *Financial Editor*



motive is not malice, but conviction born of experience that actions have consequences and there's no escaping them. After seemingly inexplicable and interminable delay, consequences shall arrive, amplified by the tawdry stratagems that promoted delay.

It will come as a surprise to many, but governments cannot suspend reality. Their arsenal, when things break down, comes down to their arsenal: the capacity to coerce. Violence or its threat enables governments to exact compliance. Proponents of government power invariably see themselves exercising it. Once the ship hits the iceberg, it will be obvious that governments' guns are not wands, freeing citizens from the necessity of producing as much or more than they consume. They cannot compel innovators to innovate or producers to produce. While coercive power comes from one end of a gun, none of the powers that produce progress (and the gun) magically materialize at the other end.

It is said that America is a society divided. True enough, but the important question is: along what lines? Crisis and social breakdown will provide clarification: it's governments and their beneficiaries versus producers. In other words, those who don't do useful things versus those who do.

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## Executive Intelligence Summary – 31 March 2017

By Samuel Culper, *Intelligence Editor*



**B**ottom Line Up Front: One thing we've learned over the past several years is that decision-makers at the highest levels of the U.S. Intelligence Community are more interested in conducting cyber offense than defense. Reuters discovered this week that 90 percent of the federal cyber budget is used for offensive operations, and just 10 percent for defense. I'm going to dive a bit deeper into this story for you...

Starting with the Snowden leaks in 2013, we learned (or had our suspicions confirmed) that NSA was really good at their jobs. After 9/11, the US Intelligence Community began to prioritize gathering Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) from the Middle East. Budgets expanded and intelligence organizations went on a hiring and buying spree. This period of time coincided with the greatest era of technological advancement known to man. And then all those personnel, tools, and lessons learned were unleashed at the globe at large, including against ourselves.

The US has engaged in various forms of SIGINT virtually since the birth of electronic communication. But at some point after

World War II, perhaps during the Cold War, the US became the global leader in SIGINT. Yeah, lots of other nations have SIGINT programs, but only one has NSA. Part of what makes us so good is that NSA, CIA, FBI and other organizations employed some of the world's best cyber engineers, programmers, developers, and data scientists. It also helped that the US had very robust academic research and development programs at some of the world's top universities located in the US. We had the world's largest tech giants — Microsoft, Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Verizon — and until several years ago had a very firm grasp over global finance.

In other words, the Intelligence Community had a lot of buttons to press.

But while former presidents Bush and Obama were focused on playing six degrees of separation with Angela Merkel, illegally spying on American citizens, and chasing the same terrorists that they helped create, foreign nations were pressing our buttons, too. John M. McConnell, the NSA director under the George H. W. Bush administration, said in 2015: "*The Chinese have penetrated every major corporation of any consequence in the United States and taken information. We've never, ever not found Chinese malware*". And there's a long list of hacks associated with Chinese cyber espionage.

What really got my attention was when the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) very slowly and reluctantly reported that it lost very sensitive data about me and millions of other Americans who currently have or had security clearances. Well, OPM didn't just "lose" this information — it was taken from them by the Chinese, allegedly, in at least two attacks dating back to 2014 and 2015 (and perhaps 2012). Once cybersecurity professionals stopped the first incident in 2014, Chinese hackers (allegedly) in 2015 were able to use a backdoor that they had set up in the previous attack. What's worse is that a year-long Congressional investigation called the hack "preventable," because OPM had been warned numerous times since 2007 that their IT infrastructure was at risk of being exploited through poor security. This theft of data was so massive that it could have been considered an act of war. Regardless, it will have generational consequences.

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## If There Be Lawlessness

By T. L. Davis



**T**hings are proceeding so fast toward cultural and political meltdown that it is difficult to keep up. City states such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Chicago have declared their independence from the union and are in open rebellion. Call it what you will, take the MSM meme of protecting illegal aliens if you choose, but it is nothing less than

secession by disobedience. It is a flagrant act of rebellion against federal authority and should be met with armed troops on the steps of these city halls.

Typically, as a Constitutionalist, there is the 10th Amendment to be considered here, except that national security is a delineated power of the federal government and a "uniform rule of Naturalization" is among the powers of Congress, not the purview of random city councils. It is also the duty of the President to ensure that all laws are "faithfully executed."

But, here is another prime example of the corrupt media hiding, through lies of omission, the true fact of this rebellion. It is none other. **It is a direct threat to the stability of the United States and the rule of law**, which has been under constant assault for decades. Federal judges openly disregard clearly Constitutional acts of the duly elected President and we are expected to wait for the legal processes?

There are hearings being held to discover that for which there is no evidence ever presented, to suggest that the President colluded with a foreign power to rig the latest Presidential election. This is being held up as the most important news of the day. While, at the same time and totally ignored, it has been discovered that there was "incidental" surveillance of the Trump campaign by the previous administration and subsequent dispersal of that illegally obtained information throughout domestic and foreign intelligence agencies at the direction of the former President. These are felonies, indictable under federal law. There is now an open admission of this surveillance and dispersal of illegally obtained and disseminated information by the previous administration by Evelyn Farkas, Deputy Secretary of Defense, on the Morning Joe show on MSNBC aired in early March. Her arrest and waterboarding should be imminent.

All of this begs the question: What laws will you openly disobey?

**We are being shown, by political leaders across the nation, heads of their state, that it is perfectly acceptable to refuse to obey laws with which one disagrees.** It is a showdown that will either result in the arrest and trial for treason of these leaders, or it will signal to everyone that this is perfectly reasonable behavior to pick and choose which federal laws will be obeyed and which can be shrugged off.

Now, I know it doesn't work the same way for us lowly citizens, but isn't that the mark of a failed nation? Where political leaders can flout and violate any law without fear of reprisal? Does this not make us a "banana republic" and therefore subject to open rebellion? It is when the people are oppressed by unjust laws, wrongly imprisoned for crimes only selectively prosecuted that open rebellion is justified. That is a founding principle of this nation, supported and encouraged by those same founders.

Let us start in the towns and cities and disregard the

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## NC HB2 Bathroom Bill Repealed

By Diane Rufino



On March 30, 2017, we learned that the NC General Assembly "repealed" HB2, the so-called "Bathroom bill." The repeal bill, HB142 ("An Act to Reset S.L. 2016-3) passed by a vote of 70-48 and was signed by Governor Roy Cooper immediately.

In favor of the bill was our own representative (Pitt County; district 9) Greg Murphy, our own senator Louis Pate, along with Senators Joyce Krawiec and Phil Berger. Our state's more conservative members, our most constitutionally-minded representatives, Rep. Michael Speciale, Rep. Larry Pittman, Rep. George Cleveland, Senator Bill Cook, Senator Norm Sanderson voted against the bill.

**So what did the bill say and what did it actually accomplish?**

**HB142** reads:

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. S.L. 2016-3 and S.L. 2016-99 are repealed.

SECTION 2. Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 81A. "Preemption of Regulation of Access to Multiple Occupancy Restrooms."

§ 143-760. Preemption of regulation of access to multiple occupancy restrooms, showers, or changing facilities.

State agencies, boards, offices, departments, institutions, branches of government, including The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System, and political subdivisions of the State, including local boards of education, are preempted from regulation of access to multiple occupancy restrooms, showers, or changing facilities, except in accordance with an act of the General Assembly."

SECTION 3. No local government in this State may enact or amend an ordinance regulating private employment practices or regulating public accommodations.

SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law. Section 3 of this act expires on December 1, 2020.

### Does HB142 really repeal HB2?

First, let's recall how HB2 came about. In February 2016, the city of Charlotte passed a law banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in public accommodations and other areas. North Carolina voided the Charlotte law with HB2, the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, which removed anti-discrimination clauses protecting the LGBT community and mandated that in government buildings people must use the bathroom or changing facility corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates. HB2 became known as the anti-transgender bill.

Roy Cooper ran for governor on the promise that he would repeal HB2 and end the "discrimination" against transgenders. The first repeal effort failed miserably and the ones after that failed as well. It seemed pretty clear that Republicans and Democrats were both concerned about the safety implications in a policy that allowed access to bathrooms merely based on a person's choice of gender rather than nature's design. [Note that only when an individual has taken the most extreme feminization or masculinization steps, gender reassignment surgery, will gender be changed on his or her birth certificate. An individual so committed will enter a bathroom without causing any anxiety to those living according to their biological gender. The issues of most concern are safety and the sense of security and privacy in a bathroom or shower or changing facility].

Although HB124 is termed a "repeal bill," Gov. Roy Cooper calls it a "compromise bill." Those in Charlotte and many in the LGBT community say it isn't a repeal, it isn't a compromise, and doesn't do enough to protect transgender rights. In fact, the Charlotte Observer's editorial board called it "a repeal in name only" and wrote that Gov. Cooper "failed spectacularly" in upholding his campaign promise to reject any deal that left North Carolina's transgender residents vulnerable to discrimination. "It is a betrayal of the promises the governor made to the LGBT community and a doubling down on discrimination by Republican legislators who have backed it all along," an editorial said. "HB142 literally does not do one thing to protect the LGBT community and locks in HB2's most basic and offensive provision."

According to professor Greg Wallace at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, HB124 is more about restoring the status quo, pre-HB2, with one exception: The law forbids government entities from enacting rules on multiple-occupancy bathrooms, showers and changing rooms unless it's "in accordance with an act of the General Assembly."

The bill also bans local governments such as Charlotte from enacting or amending an "ordinance regulating private employment practices or regulating public accommodations" until December 1, 2020. Before HB2, Wallace said, local governments were allowed to institute their own anti-discrimination ordinances. Now, when it comes to public accommodations, if you want to add a class to a list of those protected by the federal government -- and that means veterans, the elderly or unmarried adults, in addition to those in the LGBT community -- you have to go through Raleigh for the next 3½ years.

Why 2020?? According to state Senate leader, Phil Berger, this will allow time for the federal litigation regarding transgender issues to play out. [The Supreme Court is going to hear a case from Virginia on the subject this year].

With respect to public accommodations (such as bathrooms, changing rooms, etc), are there any current protections for sexual identity; that is, for transgender individuals?

Barring the Charlotte ordinance that sparked the debate, there were no state laws regarding bathroom usage. If a man went into the women's restroom, or vice versa, Wallace said, he'd likely be asked to leave, and if he refused, he could be arrested for trespassing. Charlotte's ordinance allowed transgender individuals to use the public bathroom of the gender with which they identify. HB2 banned that. HB142 does not specify what transgender people are to do except to state that there will be no local regulation of public facilities that are inconsistent with an act of the General Assembly.

Similarly, there are currently no federal laws regulating bathroom usage. Federal law prohibits any public accommodation from discriminating on the basis of "race, color, religion, or national origin" but it makes no mention of sexual orientation or gender identity (nor does it address other issues such as age or marital status, for that matter).

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## The Useful and the Useless

(Continued from page 1)

Huge shifts in social mood and direction are presaged. President Trump's election presages the coming division. Among the analyses of the election, few noted an obvious dividing line. Trump's supporters by and large do useful things, or are angry because they're prevented from doing useful things. They build, engineer, manufacture, plant, grow, operate, maintain, repair, transport, and sell the things we find useful or essential. When we ram the iceberg, their skills, brains, and adaptability will be sorely needed.

Politicians and bureaucrats and the millions dependent on them for their fake jobs, income, food, shelter, transportation, and medical care will find little demand for their skills, such as they are. The useful may well conclude that keeping them alive is more trouble than it's worth. There will be those who are too young, old, or infirm to produce, but whom the useful will support out of friendship or kinship. However, it would be surprising if they felt anything but contempt for the faceless hordes demanding that someone, anyone, take care of them.

Take away the undeserved from the undeserving and you get a tantrum. Steal the earned from those who earned it and you get righteous rage. One's a firecracker, the other a volcano. The game has been to impress upon the useful a moral obligation to support the useless, but the volcano's about to blow, burying that obscene morality in lava and ash. Given the staggering levels of accumulated debt and promises, the useful know their talents, skills, hard work, productivity and futures have been mortgaged for the useless. This is the salient and intractable social division. No reconciliation is possible between the useful and those who believe themselves entitled to their enslavement. The Trump fissure will become a yawning chasm when the Good Ship Profligate Government collides with the iceberg.

Centralization serves the needs of government and its dependents. Honest production and exchange require little government, perhaps none at all. Those who believe current arrangements should persist have to believe that the useful who support those arrangements will provide more and more while receiving less and less. The implicit premise has to be that when it all finally breaks down, the useful can be brutally subjugated—but kept producing—while receiving nothing more than their subsistence. Slavery cannot support the police state necessary to impose it, much less a modern economy. Those who believe any outcomes other than destruction and death are possible are delusional. If those are the outcomes they anticipate and desire, they're homicidally and suicidally psychopathic.

Governments will have their surveillance apparatuses, police, militaries, prisons, torture chambers, concentration camps, killing fields, and the like. The useful will have their minds. Totalitarian accounting is daunting. All that money going out for suppression, so little coming in from a populace whose best and brightest have been imprisoned or murdered, or who produce the minimum necessary to survive. The day comes when the policeman, soldiers, and guards can't be paid with anything of value and all hell breaks loose. Or, less colloquially, centralization gives way to decentralization.

To what depths governments will descend and how long they will survive as agents of repression is unknowable, but their dissolution is foreordained. They cannot commandeer the resources necessary to sustain the current level of tyranny. The useful will vote with their feet and if that's not possible, bullets will be their ballots. They will establish enclaves and protect themselves from the tantrums, chaos, and depredations of the useless. (Useful in such a context may require nothing more than a willingness to work hard.) The useless depend on the useful, who of course don't need them at all. The useful will eventually triumph, if the species survives (not a sure thing). Tragically, the butcher's bill is likely to be exorbitant.

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**NC HB2 Bathroom Bill Repealed**  
 (Continued from page 2)

Will the repeal bill address the perceived economic hit that our state has taken on account of HB2? Only time will tell. We remember, and take note, that in addition to the NCAA relocating its tournament games, rock stars have canceled tour dates, businesses have mixed projects and other sports leagues -- including the NBA and the Atlantic Coast Conference, to which Duke, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State and Wake Forest belong -- have taken their competitions elsewhere.

Maybe the bill is more about repairing the state's image than effecting an actual repeal of HB2's mandate. Maybe the economic hit that our state took was more important to remedy than standing firm on the notion that biology is a hard-and-fast guide to things such as bathroom usage, showers, and changing rooms. Nature's laws are unchanging; it's the reason we are able to reproduce and perpetuate species, why species can evolve rather than go extinct, why the planet goes through cycles and seasons, and the reason we are able to come up with momentous discoveries like DNA and how energy is stored in atoms. Remember the old warning: "It's not nice to fool with Mother Nature."

I look forward to speaking with our legislators to find out exactly the reason for HB142, what exactly its purpose is, and what it actually will do with respect to HB2.

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**Executive Intelligence Summary –31 March 2017** (Continued from page 1)

Unfortunately, cyber espionage is a massive and growing threat to national security.

Former National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command chief Gen. Keith Alexander explained that foreign espionage directed at US commercial, industrial and economic targets has resulted in the “greatest transfer of wealth in history.” (Second perhaps to the Federal Reserve and the international banking cartel.) While the the US Government and American companies are spending hundreds of billions of dollars in technology research and development, why is it so relatively easy for the Chinese or other nation-state cyber teams (or cyber criminals) to steal that data for the cost of peanuts?

Well, we know part of that answer. Recent NSA and CIA leaks show that US intelligence agencies are busy (and quite good at) identifying “bugs” in commercial and industrial software. Instead of alerting companies to these “bugs” — or exploitable vulnerabilities — so they can be patched to protect US networks, NSA is using these same bugs for their own collection. In other words, NSA wants to keep these exploits a secret, even at the risk of them being used by foreign intelligence against US companies and consumers. What these leaks show us is that NSA is prioritizing its offensive operations over the defense of its own nation.

In 2014, then-president Obama made a policy decision that NSA would have to disclose any bugs it identifies so the vulnerabilities can be patched to protect national interests... unless those bugs can be used by NSA or law enforcement... which is why NSA is sitting on so many vulnerabilities, some of which have undoubtedly been used by foreign governments to hack US targets.

And now we find out that it's not only a problem at NSA or CIA, but it's endemic government-wide. Reuters reported that the federal government spends nine times as much on offensive operations and intelligence gathering than it does on defense. It should be no wonder that the US government is getting bent over the barrel by foreign adversaries. Virtually every week there's news of another data leak or cyber exploitation — why is there not a larger effort to defense US national security in cyber space? With as many critical failures as we've experienced over the past several years alone, why isn't more being done to defend the nation? But as problematic as this sounds, I and many others believe Americans are going to experience worse.

As far back as 2012, Gen. Keith Alexander was warning of the eventual implications when cyber exploitation moves from affecting just data to physical infrastructure. “What we need to worry about is when these transition from disruptive to destructive attacks, which is going to happen.... We have to be ready for that,” Gen. Alexander said. “The conflict is growing, the probably for crisis is mounting. While we have the time, we should think about and enact those things that ensure our security in this area,” he said. “And do it now, before the crisis.”

Fast forward five years and we finally have a president who's serious about cybersecurity. One of the top three planks of President Trump's agenda was increasing cybersecurity and fixing an inherently broken US cyber policy. This week an official from the Trump administration said that they're going to roll out a cyber “neighborhood watch” program as part of its cybersecurity agenda, in an effort to increase information sharing and decrease the attack surface provided to foreign and criminal hackers. The official also said that DHS would be focusing on decreasing “systemic risk”, decreasing response times, and decreasing the amount of down time of critical infrastructure during by a cyber incident — whether that's a virus or a sustained cyber attack.

Although I have high hopes that this administration will shore up loose ends in cybersecurity and work with the private sector to improve overall security, I do believe that we should temper our expectations. One reason is because security is a culture, and one challenge for the Trump administration is getting employees in both the private and public sector to take part in this security culture. Another reason is because for years, the US Government has had staffing problems with being able to hire and retain cybersecurity professionals. There's currently an unfilled hiring gap in cybersecurity for the US Government And retaining talent is another challenge, according to one DHS official: “[W]hen we spend a couple years training forensic analysts, they're very qualified, and they're often spirited away by the private sector.”

My professional opinion is to continue to preparing for potential systems disruption. That's what I advise my readers to do, and the message I'll continue to spread.



By A. F. Branco, [comicallyincorrect.com](http://comicallyincorrect.com)

**If There Be Lawlessness** (Continued from page 1)

National Firearms Act, trample and run amok in the National Forests and National Parks across the West. If they will not arrest these few, how can they arrest the many? Is it not, then, a reasonable defense to declare inequality before the law? But, who will go to jail first? That is the real question is it not? Are we not capable of raising funds for a legal defense fund for just such willing participants? Do we not have the legal resources equal to that of a city or a state that declare their willingness to take these issues to trial?

Where do we decide to put up a resistance? It is going to cost some of us our lives. Is that not yet clear? I don't know what bail is for ripping up National Park Service tickets for trespassing, or rule violations, but is it that onerous? Do they put you in Park Jail? Are you held along with criminal cows, who have eaten of the sacred federal grass?

If there be lawlessness, what reason do any of us have for obedience?

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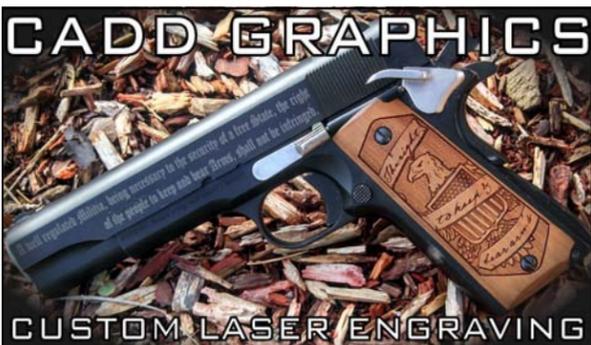
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*\*NRA requires Personal Protection Inside the Home before taking this course.*

**Sat, May 20:** NC Concealed Carry Handgun Course ---- \$60

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**April 10—The Well Armed Woman, Georgia Mountain Chapter, Blairsville, GA.** 5:30 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping and empowering women gun owners. Meeting at 226 Gainesville Hwy, Suite C, Blairsville, GA 30512. or more information please contact Carrie Brekke at twawgeorgiamountainchapter@yahoo.com for information.

**April 11—DAV Monthly Meeting, Blairsville, GA,** 7 pm – 8 pm. The Disabled American Veterans meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Veterans Center. Held at the Veterans Building, 78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy. Blairsville. For information please contact Mike Ruback 954-249-2707.

**April 11—Cherokee NC ARES Formal Meeting,** Murphy, NC, 7 pm. Our regularly scheduled second Tuesday meeting at the Robert Penland Senior Center, 69 Alpine Street in Murphy.

**April 13—The Well Armed Woman, Murphy Chapter,** Murphy, NC, 6 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping & empowering women gun owners. Meeting at Christian Martial Arts Center, 56 Valley River Ave, downtown Murphy. Contact Carrie Brekke at twawcherokeecountyncchapter@gmail.com for information.

**April 19—Soil Sampling and Amendments,** Murphy, NC. 9 am - noon. Cherokee County Extension is offering vegetable gardening classes for those wanting to learn how to grow vegetables or just improving your gardening skills. To be held at Lowe's in Murphy. Call Pat Johnson at Lowe's (828) 835-4660 to register. For more information contact Keith Wood at (828) 837-2210.

**April 21—Insect, Disease & Weed Management,** Murphy, NC. 9 am - noon. Cherokee County Extension is offering vegetable gardening classes for those wanting to learn how to grow vegetables or just improving your gardening skills. To be held at Lowe's in Murphy. Call Pat Johnson at Lowe's (828) 835-4660 to register. For more information contact Keith Wood at (828) 837-2210.

**April 21-23 Heritage Life Skills,** Waynesville, NC. Come and participate in this 6th Annual event that is filled with classes, demonstrations and workshops in vital preparedness and life skills. Immerse yourself in three days of classes such as aquaponics, how to build a hot water system, suturing, edible & medicinal plants and many more! Various presenters are scheduled including the Keynote Speaker, Dr. William R. Forstchen. Register early for discount. Go to [carolinareadiness.com](http://carolinareadiness.com) for pricing and registration form. Contact Carolina Readiness Supply at 828-456-5310 for further information.

**April 26—Site Selection, Planting Techniques & Variety Selection,** Murphy, NC. 9 am - noon. Cherokee County Extension is offering vegetable gardening classes for those wanting to learn how to grow vegetables or just improving your gardening skills. To be held at Lowe's in Murphy. Call Pat Johnson at Lowe's (828) 835-4660 to register. For more information contact Keith Wood at (828) 837-2210.

**May 31-June 5—NC Patcon,** Tarboro, NC. Featuring an old-fashioned East Carolina Style BBQ. Camping available on-site. \$25, \$14 ages 7-12, under 7 free. To be held at 94 Roberson School Road, Tarboro, NC. For more information and to sign up see [freenorthcarolina.blogspot.com](http://freenorthcarolina.blogspot.com).

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