

MEMO FROM EMMETT MAYOR GORDON W. PETRIE

SUBJECT: RISK ACCEPTANCE, A WAKE UP, AND THE NEED TO CONNECT SOME DOTS IN THE NEAR TERM (Part 1)

Given the same amount of intelligence, timidity will do a thousand times more damage in war than audacity. Carl von Clausewitz (Early 19th Century Prussian Major-General who wrote Vom Kriege [On War] still studied at various US Military War Colleges)

All of Idaho needs to get back to work. We've figured out this social distancing thing, a new "clean hands" doctrine and the wearin' of a mask. The Swedish-model should work just fine for now—and for the next round this fall.

Let's be clear; we got sucker punched by the People's Republic of China (PRC). Here's some of what the Missouri Attorney General had to say in their 47-page complaint filed against the PRC, its Communist Party and others, seeking damages for "...the enormous loss of life, human suffering, and economic turmoil experienced by all Missourians from the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted the entire world."

Missouri's AG goes on to claim with regard to the PRC, "An appalling campaign of deceit, concealment, misfeasance, and inaction by the Chinese authorities unleashed the pandemic. During the critical weeks of the initial outbreak, Chinese authorities deceived the public, suppressed crucial information, arrested whistleblowers, denied human-to-human transmission in the face of mounting evidence, destroyed critical medical research, permitted millions of people to be exposed to the virus, and even hoarded personal protective equipment—thus causing a global pandemic that was unnecessary and preventable."

I'm old enough to remember the original *I Love Lucy* TV show. We watched it in its original format in the mid-1950s. It ran from 1951 until 1957 on CBS; dad bought our first TV about 1953. I remember when Ricky Ricardo would arrive home to find Lucy in some kind of an apparent compromising position. He would tell her she had some explaining to do. In view of the pandemic, one placing us on the cusp of an economic catastrophe the likes of which our nation has not experienced since October 1929, not only does the PRC, but our federal, and even our state governments, have some explaining to do. For a change, it would be nice to have the truth, the WHOLE truth and nothing but the truth.

Fake science is just as destructive as fake news. Both generate the factionalism our Founders endeavored to neutralize. Made up models, even if believed by their makers, specifically designed to generate fear do not constitute science. They constitute propaganda.

It is telling that YouTube took down the video that went “viral” (no pun intended) of the two ER doctors in California, alleging their video violated YouTube’s “Community Guidelines”. Apparently, this means giving a science-based view apart from the national narrative. While they live in a state where the stay home order is far more restrictive than Idaho’s relatively liberal one, their solution in the video amounts to do essentially what Governor Little intends beginning May 1st with his “Reopening Idaho” guidelines. They simply add the caveat that every county and urban area will be different and therefore should have an approach suited to that “situation and the terrain” in the geographic area. What a notion—follow the science! One size does not fit all.

Yet, when we consider Idaho’s liberal original stay-home order, and in anticipation of our reopening, I believe barber shops and hair/nail salons should be allowed to reopen NOW. Their environment is much more protective than grocery stores or other “essential businesses” due to their limited seating capacity to begin with, not to mention their culture of sanitation simply because of the nature of their businesses. Churches can figure out the social distancing, too. Churches may not be an essential “business” but in times like these, they provide an essential “service”.

In the next memo, we will produce some dots to be connected and ask some hard questions, ranging from Who was really at risk, to Why did we do what we did when Sweden did almost nothing, except socially distance. Finally, we will ask about community food banks begging to restock their shelves, while farmers are (according to the internet) being told to plow under their crops and dairymen told to dump their milk. If true, John Steinbeck wrote about such nonsense over eighty years ago. Do we learn nothing?