



Texas Eagle Forum

May 2020

Dear Eagles,

In America we are promised the right to pursue our own life, liberty, and happiness. When we do this under God, we make decisions with wisdom instead of fear. We have regard and consideration for others because they are also loved and valued by our Creator.

As freedom-loving citizens, we want to decide for ourselves what we should and should not do in these challenging times. Texans have willingly done what was asked to “flatten the curve” of coronavirus infections, and we have succeeded. Some of our more rural areas don’t even have active cases, yet government edicts are ruining their economy. It is interesting that many elected officials, who certainly trusted us to put them into positions of leadership, don’t trust us to have any ability to govern ourselves.

Unfortunately, government has done much to turn us away from self-governance. The current pandemic seems a great time to revive this ideal. **A more self-responsible society would be such a blessing to our Nation.**

Throughout the State, Texas Eagle Forum members have been involved in putting on local rallies to encourage our city, county, and state governments to move quickly to restore our liberty. (“Open Texas” is a great Facebook group to find a rally in your area.) Governor Greg Abbott will have stated his plans for reopening Texas by the time you read this—we are hoping and praying our State is well on the way to economic recovery!

We are reading a lot about heroes these days. Our lead article in the *Torch* is written by a hero, **Rosemary Gibson**, who became a citizen activist when she decided to act on healthcare issues that concerned her. Her conduit was writing. Currently author of 17 books, her latest book, *China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America’s Dependence on China for Medicine*, has exposed a giant national security issue for America and remains sold out at most booksellers’ websites. She saw an issue, studied it, wrote about it, and became the face of and spokesperson for that issue.

Many women are watching a new FX original series on Hulu entitled, *Mrs. America*, which purports to show how our founder, **Phyllis Schlafly**, defeated the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) with her Eagles. Unfortunately, the series’ slant favors the radical feminists and creates lies about Phyllis in an attempt to smear her character. As you likely know and love women in the target audience of the show, you may want to follow the “*Mrs. America* Watch/Discussion Party on Facebook,” which dispels many of the feminist half-truths and lies. Phyllis’ daughter Anne Schlafly Cori and others share the truth as new episodes are released.

(over, please)

Interestingly, while quarantined in England due to COVID19, actress Cate Blanchett, who portrays Phyllis in the series, is homeschooling her children. In a recent interview on *Good Morning America* (4/15/20), she commented, "... so I am going back to Phyllis' phonic method of teaching." Thank you, Cate, for promoting Phyllis' *proven* method of teaching children how to read! (Phyllis taught her six kids how to read using phonics as an alternative to the "Look and Say" method still used today.) Let's hope Cate and the other women starring in the series will hear and learn from Phyllis.

By the way, in that same interview, Cate calls Phyllis "astonishingly brilliant" and a "force of nature." We couldn't agree more!

As we slowly reopen our Country, please continue to pray for wisdom and guidance for our President and all those in authority over us. Their decisions affect whether the United States will bounce back as a global power or rush headlong into a recession. Also, remember our first responders, doctors, and nurses who are on the frontlines. They truly are American heroes!

Stay healthy, informed and involved. God bless Texas and our Nation!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindi Castilla".

Cindi Castilla
President of Texas Eagle Forum

P.S. TEF will have a booth at the Republican State Convention in July and hold an evening reception to meet and greet our new President, Cindi Castilla. We would love for sponsors to help underwrite those two activities. If you are interested, please email Cindi at ccastilla@sbcglobal.net.

As always, we so appreciate your prayers and financial support. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts!



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China's Cartels: Those Who Control the Medicines Control the World

By **Rosemary Gibson**, 4/2/20

If the coronavirus pandemic has taught us anything, the United States is unprepared for a disease outbreak or biowarfare because we no longer make the medicines necessary for survival.

Shortages of masks, ventilators, and respirators have made headline news, but shortages of critical medicines have remained largely out of public view.

On February 27, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported the shortage of a drug caused by the coronavirus outbreak in China. The agency didn't name the drug because it would cause hoarding. Since then,

the FDA has gone silent about shortages. Meanwhile, U.S. drug wholesalers are "allocating" critical generic drugs, an industry euphemism for rationing.

How dependent are we on China for medicines to care for people with severe cases of coronavirus? **China is the source of 90 percent of the chemical starting materials needed to manufacture common generic drugs** that help people recover. They include medicines to increase dangerously low blood pressure such as norepinephrine, the antibiotic azithromycin for bacterial infections, and propofol given when patients are placed on a

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Texas Eagle
Forum Website

Be sure and check Texas Eagle Forum's website for legislative updates and news from around the state.

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ventilator to help them breathe.

Generic drugs are 90 percent of the medicines Americans take. Thousands of them are made with chemical starting materials from China. China's dominance escalated after the U.S. granted most-favored nation trading status to China. Within three years of the U.S.-China Trade Relations Act in 2000 and China joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), the last aspirin manufacturing plant in the U.S. shut its doors, the last facility making Vitamin C went out of business, and the only remaining penicillin plant announced its closure. **Now, the U.S. has virtually no capacity to manufacture antibiotics.**

A common view is that production has shifted to China because of lower labor costs and weaker regulations. There's more to the story.

Western companies cannot compete successfully because the free market doesn't exist in generic drug and chemical ingredient manufacturing. **China's cartels fueled by government subsidies undercut U.S. and other companies, driving them out of business.** Western firms aren't competing against Chinese companies. They are competing against the Chinese government.

China is moving up the value chain and makes 10 percent of the generic drugs in the U.S. The first was an HIV/AIDS medicine. Other generics made in China by domestic companies and sold in the U.S. include: antibiotics, anti-depressants, birth control pills, chemotherapy for cancer treatment for children and adults, medicine for Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's, and epilepsy, to name a few.

As China ramps up production of generic drugs for American hospitals, pharmacies, and home medicine cabinets, U.S. and other western manufacturing is collapsing. Mylan, a U.S.-based generic company, announced last year that it was merging with Pfizer. Around the same time, Pfizer announced the opening of its global generic headquarters in China. Sandoz, a European company, and Teva, an Israeli company, announced in early 2019 that they will discontinue production of many medicines.

Long before the coronavirus hit the U.S. homeland in earnest, hundreds of medicines were in short supply or unavailable altogether. At a Senate Small Business Committee hearing chaired by Senator Marco Rubio in March 2020, a Johns Hopkins professor said that its hospital has 200 to 300 drugs in shortage, far more than the 98 officially reported by the FDA.

Now, in the middle of a global pandemic we face a perfect storm. Production in China has been shut down. China has withheld exports of masks and other protective gear, and it is likely that China has been withholding domestically produced medicines.

More than 100 countries affected by the coronavirus are competing for a limited global supply of critical medicines whose production depends so decidedly on a single country.

Hungary, the UK, India, and other countries have sealed their borders to prohibit exports of essential medicines. Although India has a very large generic drug industry, it depends on China for 70 percent of the chemical starting materials to make drugs.

China relishes its geopolitical leverage. As the number of coronavirus cases climbed in the U.S. last month, China's

official news outlet issued this threat, "If China announces that its drugs are for domestic use and bans exports, the United States will fall into the hell of a new coronavirus epidemic."

China's threats to withhold medicines are not new. More than a decade ago, the Chinese government threatened drug shortages if the federal government failed to act as it wished. No trade kerfuffle existed at that time.

Make no mistake, China knows precisely where the U.S. is vulnerable. Meanwhile, the FDA and industry are scrambling to pinpoint those medicines where we are solely or mostly dependent on China.

In July 2019, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission held a hearing on U.S. dependence on China for medicines. During the hearing, a representative from the Department of Defense testified about the risks to the military of medicines made with key ingredients from China.

This testimony triggered a spellbinding account by a commissioner, a retired Army colonel with a distinguished record of military service. He talked about his three different blood pressure medicines whose key ingredients were made in China and contained rocket fuel. If he was getting contaminated drugs, active duty military people were probably getting them too, he opined.

The retired Army colonel was one of millions of Americans whose blood pressure medicines were contaminated with carcinogens. In July 2018, the FDA announced the first of many recalls. While many manufacturers recalled their products, the most troubling was the manufacturer in China whose active ingredient contained more than 200 times the acceptable limit of the rocket fuel carcinogen—per pill. Even worse, the company knew its product did not meet U.S. standards but sold it anyway.

Make no mistake, the United States faces an existential threat posed by China's control over the global supply of the ingredients and chemical materials to manufacture critical drugs. In the hands of an adversary, medicines can be weaponized. They can be made with lethal contaminants or sold without any real medicine in them, rendering them ineffective.

The director of the White House Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, Dr. Peter Navarro, drafted an Executive Order with Buy American medicine provisions for the U.S. military, VA, and the strategic national stockpile.

An avalanche of opposition from special interests has erupted. They claim that making medicines in the United States would somehow disrupt the medicine supply chain. As noted, it was already in shambles before coronavirus, plagued with poor quality medicines in persistent shortage.

The fate of the Executive Order is uncertain. Washington lobbyists are working overtime to increase our dependence on a country that has threatened to kill us. Let that sink in.

Rosemary Gibson is senior advisor at the Hastings Center and author of *ChinaRx: Exposing the Risks of America's Dependence on China for Medicine*.



Mrs. America Grossly Smears Phyllis Schlafly

By **Brian Mark Weber**, *The Patriot Post*, 4/17/20

Aside from the continued existence of Donald J. Trump, there's nothing that enrages the Left more than a threat to their perceived monopoly over women.

Conservative women are regularly portrayed as servants to their husbands, prisoners in their homes, and victims of their Christian faith. Women who dare to speak out against the feminist movement often face character assassination in the media.

That ever-present threat never stopped Phyllis Schlafly, author of the 1964 polemic, *A Choice Not an Echo*, which inspired conservatives to stand up to the liberal Republican establishment. But it was her later work against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) that still draws ire from feminists on the far Left.

In reality, the ERA was never really about equal rights for women (the 14th Amendment already offers women equal protection under the law). Instead, it was a Trojan horse designed to implement the progressive worldview.

As a result, Schlafly, who died in 2016 at age 92, was rightly concerned about many of the same problems we face today: the breakdown of the American family, abortion as a form of birth control, the blurring of lines regarding gender, and the general disdain for women who choose to stay at home and raise their children. Despite what her critics said, Schlafly was never against women having careers. In fact, she spent her career proving them wrong.

Schlafly's niece, Suzanne Venker, writes at the *Washington*

Examiner, "Schlafly was no doubt the most divisive (indeed, hated) woman in America in the 1970s—much like President Trump is today. Now that she is gone, feminists are exacting their revenge."

And revenge is clearly part of a new critically acclaimed Hulu series this week called *Mrs. America*, based on Schlafly's work to help defeat the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s.

"Feminists can rewrite history to their heart's content, and few will stop them, in part because so few people alive today know the truth," Venker adds. "Most people take it at face value. They honestly believe *Mrs. America* is a bona fide documentary."

As you might expect, the series doesn't care much for the truth. As a result, viewers will see a caricature of Schlafly—that of a homemaker oppressed by a sexist (and rapist) husband and a patriarchal society. *The Federalist's* Emily Jashinsky explains that the series' writers "had no interest in consulting the Schlafly family or their matriarch's biographer." After all, why trust viewers with the facts when politicized fiction better serves the Left's rotten agenda?

These days, anyone under the sway of Hollywood movies, television news, or social media might think feminism is stronger than ever and that Schlafly's work to "turn back the clock" ultimately failed.

But feminism continues to face one significant obstacle: Many women just don't find it appealing. "Only about a third of American women identify as feminists—about the same percentage who stays home with their children," notes Inez Feltscher Stepman of the Independent Women's Forum. "Even among young women, the majority still disassociate from the term. Just half of mothers report that full-time work would be the ideal situation for them while they have children in the home. The priorities of *Ms.* magazine have always been out of sync with the actual lives and desires of millions of women across the country, and it's their power that Schlafly harnessed."

If Schlafly's daughter has any say in the matter, *Mrs. America's* attempt to demonize her mom and her ideas will backfire. Working with Eagle Forum, the organization that Schlafly founded, **Anne Schlafly Cori** has created **MrsAmerica.org**, a hub for factual resources that help reveal the real woman who worked so tirelessly to protect American families and culture.

Pandemic Changes Some Anti-Gun Minds

The National Shooting Sports Foundation reports in March background checks for firearms purchases were up more than 80 percent from this time last year. Furthermore, dealers have observed that nearly 70 percent of sales are to first-time gun owners. Is this a surge in favor of the Second Amendment and against gun control? Americans buy and place fire alarms in their houses to protect themselves and their families in case of a fire. For the same reason, many Americans are now joining the ranks of those who own firearms: to protect themselves and their families. Sometimes that can include protection from tyranny. When governors like New Jersey Democrat Phil Murphy are declaring he “wasn’t thinking of the Bill of Rights” while implementing his lockdown protocols, who can blame folks for buying guns? Nothing like a little pandemic to remind us of what’s really important.

SOURCE: *The Patriot Post*, 4/17/20

The Election’s in the Mail?

Scammers are everywhere during the coronavirus, experts are warning. But they’re not just after your bank account or personal information. They’re after your vote. For the Democratic Party, there’s plenty of upside to a crisis like this one. After years of trying to relax the election process, the coronavirus is giving them the perfect scenario to push for the kind of nationwide system that’s ripe for abuse: mail-in ballots. In a recent interview, former Attorney General Eric Holder didn’t even try to hide his party’s motives. “Coronavirus,” he told *Time* magazine, “gives us an opportunity to revamp our electoral system so that it permanently becomes more inclusive....” Of course, inclusivity is code for doing away with safeguards like voter ID laws and other checks and balances that keep our elections honest. This is the time, he argued, to demand a “sea change” in voting systems. But a “sea change” is what every democracy-loving American should be worried about. So what can we do? There are websites like HonestElections.org and TrueTheVote.org which are devoted to the integrity of the process. We’re a long way off from the November election, but the groundwork for changing the process is being laid now. Make sure you’re informed.

SOURCE: Tony Perkins, Family Research Council, 4/17/20

NOTE: We don’t have to wait until November for the push for mail-in ballots. Last month, the Texas Democratic Party sued the state in federal court to demand in-mail voting over concerns about infection during in-person voting. And a state district judge in Travis County sided with the Democrats, allowing anyone who fears catching the virus to vote by mail in the July 14 Runoff Election. That order will likely be appealed as it came at the same time Attorney General Ken Paxton’s office said the fear of catching the virus was not a reason to let voters cast ballots by mail. TEF will keep you posted.

Return to the Bible

A recent poll by veteran researcher George Barna shows that only 6 percent of Americans hold a Biblical worldview. How do we change this number? By studying the Bible! If you already read the Bible, now is a great time to start digging deeper. If you don’t read the Bible, now is a great time to start! Recent polling shows that 25 percent of secular Americans consider the coronavirus to be a “wake up call back to faith in God.” Americans are currently eager to read the Bible and strengthen their faith, or simply learn about God. Sales of Bibles soared by 40 percent in recent weeks. Jim Jewell, an executive at Christian publisher Tyndale, said he believes concern over the pandemic “has upended almost everyone’s lives in some way. It’s not surprising that people turn to the comfort and clarity of the Bible in times of trouble and uncertainty.”

SOURCES: *WallBuilders*, 4/17/20, *The Christian Post*, 4/14/20

Quote of the Month

“The sacrifices that are demanded of Americans today may be necessary, but they must never become customary. The purpose of our government is to keep us alive, yes, but also to keep us living and working, as is our right.”

~ Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn, “Thoughts on the Current Crisis,” *Imprimis*, March/April 2020

Great American Quote

“The same prudence which in private life would forbid our paying our own money for unexplained projects, forbids it in the dispensation of the public moneys”

~ Thomas Jefferson, 1808

Texas Eagle Forum

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