

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

The climate COP out

More world leaders are skipping the United Nations global warming party

The world's elite are fueling their private jets in advance of Thursday's kickoff ceremony for the 30th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP30). No expense has been spared by Brazil, the host nation, which clear-cut a path through the Amazon rainforest to ease the environmental warriors' journey to the exotic locale.

Socialist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva spent millions of dollars readying Val-de-Cans International Airport to receive the expected influx of Gulfstreams and Learjets. The terminal is adding VIP rooms and upgrading the air conditioning system to guarantee guests aren't troubled by sweltering South American temperatures before being whisked in limousines past the favelas to the site of the convention, which ends Nov. 21.

Heads of state and assorted celebrities will enjoy the protection of Brazil's military, which has stationed an aircraft carrier nearby. Security measures ensure neither beggars nor protesters approach the "blue zone," lest potentates be disturbed as they lounge in five-star accommodations.

President Trump is the most prominent global leader to call the shindig a waste of time. In his inimitable way, he let them know at the General Assembly meeting in September by rattling off several decades' worth of warnings of weather-related cataclysms that never materialized.

"All of these predictions made by the United Nations and many others, often for bad reasons, were wrong. They were made by stupid people that have cost their countries fortunes and given those same countries no chance for success. If you don't get away from this green scam, your country is going to fail," he said.

The White House won't even bother dispatching low-level officials to dignify the event, which is a diplomatic insult in its own right.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi sent a

more polite letter declining her invitation. Chinese President Xi Jinping is also a likely no-show. The Middle Kingdom gains a considerable competitive advantage when the rest of the developed world cripples its manufacturing base by adopting climate targets crafted to promote green energy boondoggles such as windmills and solar panels. He has no reason to go.

Erstwhile climate agitator Bill Gates has decided it's time to tone down the alarmism. Last week, he urged summit participants to "refocus on the metric that should count even more than emissions and temperature change: improving lives. Our chief goal should be to prevent suffering, particularly for those in the toughest conditions who live in the world's poorest countries."

Mr. Gates must have noticed that the 2024 presidential election changed the game. Had Kamala Harris emerged victorious, COP30 would have been a big deal. America would have signed on to the "net zero" proposal imposing an unprecedented global tax on international shipping. Mr. Trump's team threatened to sanction any country that went along with it.

USAID would still be open, and nongovernmental climate grifters would be financing their uneconomic schemes with Uncle Sam's checkbook. Under Presidents Biden and Obama, the agency was responsible for a third of U.S. climate expenditures.

This year's cocktail parties in Belem, Brazil, are likely to be more sober as big shots grapple with the nightmarish prospect of running out of other people's money and leaving unable to implement their fantasies.

The Taliban, which spent months campaigning for a speaking slot, may be the only faction excited about sending a delegation this year. The winds of public opinion have shifted. It remains to be seen whether COP30 attendees will be resilient enough to adapt.



Tariffs are hammering America's farmers

Remove levies on critical agricultural inputs

By Marc Short and Joel Griffith

Conservatives once heralded the good news of American prosperity derived from free trade and that trade among nations led to peace rather than conflict abroad. Today, too many cheer the tariff spree crushing American farmers who feed the world. A thriving farm belt and affordable groceries require an end to the tariffs, which are closing the world to American agriculture.

President Trump's tariffs "target" foreign countries but harm our farmers in states such as Iowa, Nebraska and Indiana. Nitrogen fertilizer prices rose by double digits this past year, reaching a "disastrous level," farm groups said. The effective tariff rate on other essentials, such as seeds, herbicides and machinery, jumped from less than 1% when Mr. Trump took office to more than 12% today, a stunning twelvefold increase.

Coming into this year, American cattle ranchers were already suffering from regional droughts across the American West, which left the cattle count at a 75-year low.

Mr. Trump's broad tariffs exacerbated the pain for ranchers by increasing input costs and subjecting them to retaliatory tariffs. This made our ranchers' diminished and high-priced supply even less competitive. Meanwhile, the new 50% tariffs on Brazilian beef caused ground beef prices to reach an all-time high of \$6.32 per pound in September, up 12.8% this year and rivaling the largest annual increase on record.

To alleviate the pain, Mr. Trump is considering quadrupling Argentine beef imports to 80,000 metric tons, which again proves the maxim that trade lowers prices and tariffs raise them, despite the administration's denials.

American cattle ranchers reacted with outrage at the possibility of increasing beef imports from Argentina, but American families shouldn't face a tariff-driven beef tax. Amusingly, the president has demanded that American cattle ranchers "get their prices down." Unfortunately, ranchers cannot magically end regional drought, but removing regulatory hurdles such as onerous federal land grazing restrictions and ending the unlawful

tariffs on inputs could help our ranchers regain market share by lowering their costs.

Tariffs are driving farmers' costs higher while causing farm revenue to plummet. American agriculture is an export business. More than 20% of what American farmers grow is exported. Retaliatory tariffs enacted by some of our largest customers, such as Canada and the European Union, make U.S. products less competitive overseas.

Taxing tractors and fertilizer while chasing away our regular customers does not "level the playing field." It spells bankruptcies, bailouts or both. In fact, family farm bankruptcies have shot up 57% from last year, an ominous signal in an industry that runs on the thinnest margins even in the best of times.

The administration proposes a bailout package funded by tariff taxes, but we have been here before. The first Trump term disbursed approximately \$57 billion in direct payments, in addition to crop insurance and subsidized loans, to mitigate tariff-driven losses. Yet writing government checks to offset government-imposed losses is not a winning strategy. It's an admission that your policy has failed.

Conservatives should correct course. Start with the removal of tariffs on essential farm inputs. Then we can work to resolve the retaliatory tariffs levied by our trading partners so ships once again sail from U.S. ports loaded with American meat, grain and produce to feed the world.

Rural America helped elect Mr. Trump, believing he would unleash an economic boom similar to that of his first term through lower taxes and less regulation. This administration cannot fully fulfill this promise of renewed prosperity if it's walloping farmers with tariffs and forcing our best customers to shop elsewhere. American farmers don't need a bailout. They need the removal of trade barriers so they can do better than anyone else on earth: Feed the world.

Marc Short is chairman of the board at Advancing American Freedom, the conservative advocacy group founded by former Vice President Mike Pence. Joel Griffith is the senior fellow for economic prosperity at Advancing American Freedom.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Epstein/Prince Andrew accuser wanted only justice

Those who doubt that one person can change the world are wrong. Virginia Roberts Giuffre, the Jeffrey Epstein/Prince Andrew accuser, proved that the single-mindedness and zeal of a woman on a moral mission can be loud and forceful.

In stripping Prince Andrew of his royal titles and evicting him from the royal estate in Windsor, his brother King Charles made a declarative statement that no one, not even a royal, enjoys entitlement to a minor to satisfy their own needs. Though Giuffre did not live to see Prince Andrew expelled from the royal family (she died by suicide in April), her relentless two-decade quest for justice landed Epstein and his collaborator, British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, in prison. Epstein is said to have taken his life in 2019 while awaiting trial.

It took one woman to bring about this seismic change in the monarchy, and I knew her myself. As a sociologist and social activist who has studied child sex trafficking in the family courts for four decades, I met one of Giuffre's attorneys when I was speaking at a journalism conference in Chicago many years ago. When I learned he was representing Giuffre, I

reached out to lend my support. I asked him to share my manuscript on child exploitation with his client. Giuffre responded right away with a poignant quote that appears on the jacket of my book. She understood the pain of child exploitation firsthand and was able to relate to the case narratives in my book.

Many people wonder what gave her the strength to pursue her battle against the royal family. She was obviously not motivated by money because she placed the proceeds from her settlement into a charity. Then what motivated her?

The answer is as old as the Bible. In the book of Deuteronomy 16:11, Moses in his peroration to the Jewish people exhorted: "Justice, Justice, Thou Shalt Pursue." Giuffre embodied the biblical urging to seek justice with perseverance and strength.

AMY NEUSTEIN

Co-author, "From Madness to Mutiny: Why Mothers Are Running From the Family Courts — and What Can Be Done About It" Fort Lee, New Jersey

Kirk murder was domestic terrorism, not fringe activism

Antifa's influence is no longer theoretical. It's operational. Tyler Robinson's assassination of Charlie Kirk was not a lone act; it was the culmination of ideological grooming, tactical mimicry and strategic hatred.

Recovered bullet casings engraved with "Hey fascist! Catch!" were declarations of war. Discord messages referencing scoped rifles and engraved ammunition reveal a chilling level of premeditation. The rifle, a Mauser M98 bolt-action, was wrapped in a towel and hidden in a wooded area, suggesting tactical concealment and insurgent intent.

Mr. Robinson's ideological trajectory mirrors the decentralized indoctrination tactics of antifa. Like Hamas, antifa weaponizes optics, embeds within civilian protests and manipulates media to vilify law enforcement and destabilize democratic institutions. It thrives on chaos,

not reform, and seeks abolition of the state itself.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox confirmed that Kirk's murder was politically motivated and described it as a "targeted assassination." Mr. Robinson's father recognized his son from FBI-released images and helped facilitate the young man's surrender, underscoring the tragic collision of ideology and family.

This is not fringe activism. It is domestic insurgency. Unless we respond with clarity, resolve and tactical precision, we will see more Charlies fall.

We must name it, we must document it, and we must prepare a national response that treats this threat with the seriousness it demands.

GARY N. DARBY

Mesa, Arizona

No one with good intentions is against voter ID

In a Nov. 2 Truth Social post, President Trump again called for the Senate to do away with the filibuster, writing: "TERMINATE THE FILIBUSTER, NOT JUST FOR THE SHUTDOWN, BUT FOR EVERYTHING ELSE."

In the same post, he made specific mention of getting voter ID approved, and I couldn't help but wonder: Who could possibly be against showing ID at the polls, and why?

We're all asked to show ID to do dozens of mundane tasks in life — all of which are far less important than the sacred right of voting that ensures our democracy. Yet the Democratic Party is just fine with just anyone showing up on Election Day and voting on the honor system? That doesn't even work when leaving Halloween candy outside the door.

Why don't Democrats come right out and say what they're clearly telegraphing: They are against voter ID because they need every vote they can get to rig an election.

Mr. Trump — who, against the best political advice money could buy, has never once even slightly wavered that the 2020 presidential election was stolen — rightly feels so strongly about this issue that he is advocating for the nuclear option to keep our democracy safe.

We, the American people, just had four years of peace and prosperity stolen from us by the most corrupt political party of all time. If the Democrats were an NCAA athletic program, they would be shuttered.

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