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JUNE 2021

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

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June 9, noon

Meeting ID: 883 5330 9869
Passcode: 067853

Topic: 2021 legislative session
Speaker: Representative Frank Chopp
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Passcode: 530607

Topic: primary endorsement proceedings
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It's not too late to sponsor A Chautauqua Afternoon at \$125. Pay online or send a check to Eleanor Munro at 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.

Sponsors at this time are: Charles and Jonis Davis, Joan Hansen, Allan Munro, Eleanor Munro, Jim and Carol Simmons, Harriet Wasserman and Jack Whisner.

opinion COVID-19 and the global economy

by Allan Munro

At a recent 2021 meeting of the MDC, board member Judi Gibbs stated that she thought the COVID-19 virus would return with large numbers of new victims. I agreed with Judi, but I hadn't organized my thoughts. This is my attempt to do so.

We have learned a lot about the virus in the last 16 months. The experts say we have a lot more to learn. Two things we have learned with relative certainty:

1. COVID-19 and all of the known mutations spread very rapidly.
 2. They also mutate very rapidly.
- This, together with the fact that vaccinations in many poor and populous countries are lagging, creates a risk that the virus will mutate around the immunities created by the current set of vaccines.

A scenario of COVID-19, once quelled in a developed country, will return via a mutation coming from some obscure corner of the earth causing another round of lockdowns and negative impacts on the world economy could occur. COVID ping pong. Subjectively, I put this scenario at a

Goodman and Johnson tackle police reforms

When Representative Roger Goodman spoke to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its July 25, 2018 meeting, he indicated that the passage of I-190 made Washington a national leader in police accountability. But after last year's protest against police brutality, he told the MDC at its May 26 meeting, he felt there was a lot more work to be done. Mr Goodman is chair of the House Public Safety Committee and long-time member of the MDC He was joined in the presentation by Representative Jesse Johnson, vice chair of the committee.

Mr Johnson explained that they formed a committee that worked closely with community groups, experts and law enforcement to form a suite of bills, 12 of which passed in the latest legislative session. These comprised major legislation addressing issues such as uniform use of force standards, police accountability and transparency.

The question now, said Mr Goodman, is "Will see a difference?"



New members

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle welcomes new member Alan Charnley.

40 percent likelihood of developing.

A recent *New York Times* article asserted that 27 or 28 doctors in a New Delhi hospital had caught the virus. All of those doctors had previously been vaccinated. Although not a certainty this suggests the mutation scenario has already taken place.

IMPACTS

We have already seen multiple supply chain disruptions. They could become unpredictable and frequent. Some of this would bring whole industries to a stop. Witness the auto industry having to stop lines of production because of a shortage

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book review

**Unexampled Courage:
The Blinding of Sgt.
Isaac Woodard and the
Awakening of America**
Macmillan Publishers (2019)
by Richard Gergel

Reviewed by Pete Francis

It was 1946. Just discharged, still in uniform, Isaac Woodard was almost home when he was pulled off of his bus at Batesburg, South Carolina. There he was beaten by the town police chief so badly that he was completely and permanently blinded. What was rare about that horrible event was that it actually led to some real reforms.

President Truman, already a strong supporter of civil rights, was particularly distressed and offended when he heard the details of the beating. Truman's efforts toward racial justice were unprecedented. He integrated the armed services, pushed his Justice Department, and sought legislation. The Republican congress did not help. But Truman never backed off from his civil rights efforts, even when his advisors told him that he would lose the 1948 election if he did not, and even when his Democratic party was broken up by Strom Thurmond and the "Dixiecrats," who were furious with him.

Judge Waring grew up in South Carolina, and had never questioned segregation or Jim Crow. But he was profoundly affected by what he saw and learned

while presiding over the federal criminal trial of the police chief who had blinded Isaac Woodard, in which the all-white jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Judge Waring began a detailed study of the constitution, and ended up concluding that "segregation is per se inequality," especially in education. That wording in a dissent by Waring was adopted unanimously by the Supreme Court in 1954's Brown v. Board of Education. How he worked with the NAACP to help bring that about is a major theme of this book.

The "unexampled courage" of the title refers to every brave person who was a part of this history, from Isaac Woodard to the many plaintiffs who challenged the unequal education that their children were receiving. Judge Waring was ostracized and his home attacked. Plaintiffs lost their jobs, had their homes burned down, or worse. Many southern white men and women wrote to Judge Waring to tell him that they agreed with him but were afraid of the repercussions of going public with their support. Those who participated knew the danger.

We think of the 1960s as the time of the great push for civil rights, but the period from 1946 to 1950 is generally not as well understood nor as well remembered. Walter White, Julian Bond, Thurgood Marshall, Eleanor Roosevelt, and several others appear in major roles in this narrative, which is so compelling that you will want to read it again.



- continued from p1 -

of computer shops. To avoid random interruptions in operations, manufacturers would have to invest in expensive supply chain redundancy.

In addition sectors of the hospitality industry would have to stop operating. Ports and airports would stop operating, causing a disruption of supply routes.

This mutation scenario threatens years of chaotic disruptions in the world economy.

All of these impacts will cause globalization to decelerate or reverse.

WHAT TO DO?

Strengthen the discovery powers of the World Health Organization. Do this by direct negotiations with the recalcitrant countries. Negotiations should be free of any preconditions and not tied to any other issue.

Organize a set of economic sanctions to be automatically imposed upon countries that resist inquiries from WHO (example, China under Xi Jinping and Brazil under Juan Bolsonaro).

Upgrade the National Institute of Health with substantially larger appropriations and staff to develop early recognition and faster vaccine developing capacity.

DISCLAIMER

Any scenario with a 40 percent chance of realization needs to be addressed by the relevant policy deciders. But this essay is predicting the future. As that great Yankee philosopher, Yogi Berra, once said, "Predictions can be very difficult, especially when they are about the future."



Membership renewal date appears on above label

June 2021

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