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**OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS** 

# **An Outrage Festers In Egypt**

THE TELEGRAPH, London (Dec. 3): When the Egyptian military took control of the country in the summer, it did so in the name of restoring order. Under Mohamed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood allies, Egypt had indeed become alarmingly unstable.

Yet the generals' conduct has made matters far, far worse. The initial crackdown on the Brotherhood was carried out with a

brutality that turned much of Cairo into a war zone, sending the international community into paroxysms of indignation. Since then, things have not improved. In a powerful report yesterday, our correspondent Richard Spencer described how 14 women and seven girls from Alexandria have been jailed for 11 years for participating in a Muslim Brotherhood protest.

Whatever your political stance, this was an outrageous decision. Many of the women were imprisoned on only the scantiest of evidence: one, as we reported, claimed to have been taking a walk with her daughter, as recommended by her doctor as treatment for a heart condition. Even if the women were indeed involved in a protest - which ended peacefully and with only the most minor property damage - handing such a harsh term to girls who are legally underage is a decision that many, within Egypt and without, will find repellent.

The new regime in Cairo obviously cares, on some level, what the outside world thinks of it: its embassy in London recently took this newspaper to the Press Complaints Commission to object to some of our reporting (a ruling yesterday found conclusively in our favor). In which case, Britain and the rest of the West should make clear that such behavior is not only unjust, unfair and uncivilized, but risks inflaming tensions in Egypt to an even more dangerous level.

#### CORRECTION

In Wednesday's Press & Dakotan editorial about the EB-5 case and a proposed forensic audit, it should have been noted that while such an audit cannot investigate a federal program, it can investigate the state's role in the program.

#### ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2013. There are 26 days

left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 5, 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment

On this date: In 1776, the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, N.Y.; he was the first chief executive to be born after American independence.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35. In 1792, George Washington was

re-elected president: John Adams was re-elected vice president. In 1831, former President John

Quincy Adams took his seat as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives In 1848, President James K, Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United . States. In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany. In 1979, feminist Sonia Johnson was formally excommunicated by the Mormon Church because of her outspoken support for the proposed qual Rights Amendment to the Constitution. In 1991, Richard Speck, who'd murdered eight student nurses in Chicago in 1966, died in prison a day short of his 50th birthday. In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades. Ten years ago: The two makers of flu shots in the United States, Chi-ron and Aventis Pasteur, announced they had run out of vaccine and would not be able to meet a surge in de-mand. A suicide bombing on a com-

muter train in southern Russia killed 44 people, two days before the nation's parliamentary elections. Six children were killed during an assault by U.S. forces on a compound in eastern Afghanistan. A federal judge in Utah threw out the case against two civic leaders accused of bribery in their efforts to bring the 2002 Winter Games to Salt Lake City.

Five years ago: The Labor Department reported that an alarming half-million jobs had vanished in Nov. 2008 as unemployment hit a 15-year high of 6.7 percent. A judge in Las Vegas sentenced O.J. Simpson to 33 years in prison (with eligibility for parole after nine) for an armed robbery at a hotel room. Death claimed ac-tresses Nina Foch at age 84 and Beverly Garland at age 82

One year ago: Port clerks re-turned to work at the ports of Los Anknow about 2013 next spring when the number crunchers finish their calculations.) geles and Long Beach after an So, how would you folks who are less than eight-day strike that paralyzed the na-65 years of age like to have a program with tion's busiest shipping complex; they had won guarantees against the outprices negotiated far below present prices for sourcing of jobs. Jazz composer and pianist Dave Brubeck, known for his your healthcare? And that would also: Cost the federal government nothing and exotic and challenging rhythms in pieces such as "Take Five," died in Norwalk, Conn., a day before he thereby make no contribution to any federal debt would have turned 92. Give everyone choices. Patients could **Today's Birthdays:** Singer Little Richard is 81. Author Joan Didion is choose any facility, physician or corporation they want to provide their services and prod-79. Author Calvin Trillin is 78. Actor ucts. Servers could choose to treat either those Jeroen Krabbe is 69. Opera singer who are members of Healthcare-64, or those Jose Carreras is 67. Pop singer Jim Messina is 66. College Football Hall of Famer Jim Plunkett is 66. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 64. Actress Morgan Brittany is 62. Actor Brian Backer is 57. Pro Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 56. Country singer Ty England is 50. Rock singer-BY LEONARD PITTS JR. musician John Rzeznik (The Goo Goo **Tribune Content Agency** Dolls) is 48. Country singer Gary Allan is 46. Comedian-actress Margaret Cho is 45. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 44. Actress Alex Kapp I like capitalism. Specifically, I like the idea that if I write a Horner is 44. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 41. Actress Paula Patton is 38. Actress Amy Acker better book, have a better idea, build a better mousetrap, I will be reis 37. Actor Nick Stahl is 34. Rhythmwarded accordingly. A system where and-blues singer Keri Hilson is 31. Actor Frankie Muniz is 28. Actor Ross everyone gets the same reward regardless of quality or quantity of Bagley is 25 Thought for Today: "All our work is inconsistent with excellence dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." — Walt Disand innovation, as the mediocrity and inefficiency that beset the Soviet ney (born this date in 1901, died 1966). Union readily proves. The woman who is successful under capitalism gets to eat steak and lobster whenever she wants. Leonard That's never bothered me. What PITTS does bother me is the notion that the unsuccessful man who lacks that woman's talent, resources, opportunities or luck should not get to eat at all. There is something obscene in the notion that a person can work full time for a multinational corporation and earn not enough to keep a roof it, you know we have here in Yankton exactly the same peoover his head or food on his table. The sople who struggled and built the called safety net by which we supposedly pro-Event Center to begin with. I betect the poor ought to be a solid floor, a level lieve things like buildings, and of basic sustenance through which we, as things are somehow transmoral people, allow no one to fall - particuformed by the people who larly if their penury is through no fault of their touch them. What you felt and own. saw during the 125th was these Maybe you regard that opinion as radical inanimate objects being transand extremist. Maybe it is. But if so, I am in exformed by people. Their love, cellent company. their belief being shown to you Martin Luther King, for instance, mused through these objects. that "there must be a better distribution of It took many people to make wealth and maybe America must move toward the 125th come to life: Re-enaca democratic socialism. tors who became the people of The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians the costumes; the antique car 8:13-15, that it's wrong for some to live lives of owners; the buggy drivers; the ease while others struggle. "The goal is equalchildren who sang; the orchesity, as it is written: 'The one who gathered tra; Matt Michels, and his wife; much did not have too much and the one who Gov. Daugaard and his wife; the gathered little did not have too little." In Acts museum: the Dakota Theatre: 4:32, Luke writes approvingly of the early Bernie Hunhoff: the Chamber: church that: "No one claimed that any of their Carmen Schramm; Myrna Hunpossessions was their own, but they shared hoff; the Press and Dakotan who everything they had." ran so many historic articles; Mike Stevens, the people who



### Writer's Block **A Healthcare Proposal**

**BY WILLIAM KERR** For the Press & Dakotan

I am proposing a program — Healthcare-64

- to provide a less expensive healthcare system than we now have for those under 65 years of age

But, first some facts about healthcare:

1. Our present system costs just about twice as much per person as most, if not all, of the other rich coun-

tries consume for health care. 2. Some of these other rich countries have better treatment outcomes than ours.

3. Pharmaceutical providers sell their products to these other countries, like Canada for instance, for far less than they sell them to us in the U.S

4. The reason these other rich countries can do this is that they negotiate costs of healthcare services and products involved for the

total millions of people in their country. 5. We have a similar program in our country called Medicare. It negotiates prices for the millions of us 65 years, or more, of age for health care services and products.

6. We elders pay \$95 per month for assistance with our healthcare costs and Medicare pays the bulk of our costs for healthcare. (If you want to know how well Medicare works for us, just ask any elder who is on the program.) And elders consume the majority of hospitalizations in our country, and probably have the highest consumption of health care services per person of any age group.

7. Medicare is a program legislated by Congress but supported financially by us recipients ever since it began right up to 2012. (We will

who are members of other plans, but they could not serve both. Such a plan exists in England. (If both were served by the same folks and a shortage of time or product occurred, those who paid less for their services could be

made to wait until those who paid more for their services were served.)

• Reduce the paper work throughout our present system dramatically. It would also reduce the costs of

operating ERs because many times the poor go there even when they can't afford it because they know that by law the ER must treat them.

Such a program does not have to be free as in most rich countries. If we can do it for us seniors who probably consume more healthcare services and products per person than any other age group for \$95 per mouth, we should be able to do it for that amount, or less, for those under 65 years of

There may be some reasons a program to cover about 200 million more citizens would cost a bit more per person, I just don't know what it would be. Usually more people paying brings down the unit cost.

But, I think we might even cover those now on Medicaid if we made the monthly payments a little higher than \$95 a month. For instance, at \$125 for a single person, \$200 for a married couple, \$250 for a married couple with up to 3 children and \$300 for a married couple with 4 or more children, we could possibly eliminate Medicaid totally and cover the costs of treating the 40 million, or so, who cannot now afford healthcare and just are sick more often and die younger.

Keep in mind also that both Medicare and Healthcare-64 are self-supporting programs, so even if the country went bankrupt, they could continue (at a new address, of course) for all or any members who wanted to.

If you like this idea, please make copies of this article and send one to each of your elected representatives and send one with each of your Christmas cards for no extra postage. If we citizens do nothing, a program like this is not likely to come into existence. The American Medical Association, the pharmaceutical companies and the insurance companies would probably lobby against it with many dollars. We need to lobby for it with many letters (copies), e-mails and telephone calls.

the latter up in arms last week on his radio

Pope Francis writes that poverty must be

tion and by attacking the structural

sad," says Limbaugh. "It's actually

"How can it be that it is not a

news item," writes the pope, "when

an elderly homeless person dies of

exposure, but it is news when the

"This is just pure Marxism coming

out of the mouth of the pope," fumes

stock market loses two points?"

This is astounding ... and it's

"radically resolved by rejecting the absolute

autonomy of markets and financial specula-

causes of inequality ....

unbelievable.<sup>1</sup>



Sally Whiting Brenda Willcuts Jackie Williams

\* \* \*

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#### FROM THE BIBLE

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

donated money ... the list is so

long I'm afraid I couldn't name

These people are those to be

them all.

thanked.

### YOUR LETTERS

#### **The Real Thanks**

#### MelCena Bernard, Yankton

**Riverfront Event Center** Curt and I very much appreciate the nice comments regarding the 125th, but the event was due to the community spirit not

In the original bill of lading for the Riverfront buildings, it said "built with the finest materials available" I believe it was, but all the finest materials is nothing without people. People who dreamed and saw opportunities and fought so hard to achieve the goals. People who saw obstacles and fought to overcome them through all sorts of bad times.

I saw those people when building the 125th event. It was I who was in awe of them. I heard people say where can we get this and another saying I can get it, I heard who can do this, another saying, oh I know someone. I was so struck by how hard they worked and how fast they were pulling it together. Once you see it and experience

Which brings us to the pope — and Rush Limbaugh. As you may have heard, the former has issued his first Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, in which, among other things, he attacks the free market and what he calls an "economics of exclusion." This had

## The Pope Versus Rush

show.

Limbaugh. Trickle-down economics, writes the pontiff, "expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power .. Maybe, says Limbaugh, his words were deliberately mistranslated by "the left." No, seri-

ously, he said that. But then, some of us are fine with faith so long as it speaks in platitudinous generalities or offers a weapon to clobber gay people with, but scream bloody murder when it imposes specific demands on their personal conscience — or wallet.

It is perfect that all this unfolds in the season of thanksgiving, faith and joy, as people punch, stun gun and shoot one another over HDTVs and iPads and protesters demand what ought to be the bare minimum of any full-time job: wages sufficient to live on.

This is thanksgiving, faith and joy? No. It is fresh, albeit redundant evidence of our greed - and of how wholeheartedly we have bought into the lie that fulfillment is found in the things we own.

Some of us disagree. Some us feel that until the hungry one is fed and the naked one clothed, the best of us is unfulfilled, no matter how many HDTVs and iPads he owns. This is the radical, extremist ideal embraced by the human rights icon, the Gospel writers, the Bishop of Rome — and me.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

