

American Logo

March 25, 2017

Volume VI,#6

How Joe McCarthy became Charlie McCarthy...

Of Rope-a-dope and Russian Roulette

The United States has 780 military and naval stations around the world. Russia has two (2). Our presence is protected by a naval force centered by a baker's dozen or so of Presidential Class aircraft carriers, while the Russian Navy boasts one rickety aircraft carrier that not too long ago required a rescue vessel to give it a jump start or perhaps tow the bloody thing to port. President Trump, ever aware of his stature as Commander-in-chief (with his Admiral's cap loaded with fruit salad) in his proposed budget, boosted our flagging military spending (something like \$1.2 trillion, counting intel services) by an additional \$54 billion, in order to boost our defensive posture, which apparently is falling apart, while the best the Russians can commit amounts to –

oh, perhaps two or three times Vladimir Putin's personal wealth. (That's a guess because in Russia the President doesn't have to release his tax returns. Besides, he doesn't have any).

Isn't that great?

Everybody, including Rand Paul, would have to agree that – apart from a few thousand nuclear warheads on both sides that cancel each other out (and perhaps us, if some jittery tweeting thumb hits the button– we've really got those bloody Commies on the ropes.

Ropes? Wait a minute. Are we forgetting the Rumble in the Jungle? How George Foreman had good old Ali on the ropes for half an hour or so, doing a paradiddle on Ali's ribcage till he, George was exhausted, and then peace-loving Ali (he proved that later during Vietnam) stepped in and knocked Foreman into his fallback career as a barbecue salesman? Old Ali, the best boxer and the worst poet in the world, called it his "Rope-a-dope" military strategy.

Naw, I just can't believe that Vladimir could be that smart, that he has studied up on Ali and goes to bed at night

thinking about the Great One and muttering: “If they give me any jive, they’ll fall in five.”

Still, you have to admit, Vlad is not doing too badly. He has stretched his term to 17 years, not bad for Russia, while the Donald is defensively tweeting his way through the first 100 days. Putin, Forbes Magazine hasn’t yet pointed out but should shortly, is probably the richest man in the world, perhaps \$85 billion. At the very least, he could win a pissing contest with Bill Gates or Warren Buffett, because he adroitly backed Gorby, Krushchev and those other guys who liberated state-owned corporations into American knock-offs, skimming each one in the process. And under his mandate, Russia has become a parliamentary democracy, with a Duma of some 430 elected representatives of the great Russian people. Just to make sure they did democracy right, Vlad made them all in his own image. On a recent vote backing the Putin plan to do to the Crimea what Hitler did to the Rhineland, the vote was 430-1 backing old Vlad. The 1 decided it would be a good idea to take out Ukrainian citizenship, but he ended up in an accidental shooting

accident, since Ukraine doesn't have the sensible gun controls of an NRA like we do.

The next thing on Putin's program of rope-a-doping was that he hired a recent Ukrainian resident called Paul Manafort (perhaps a dual citizen as a Cypriot, Cyprus being a dump yard for Russian billionaires' dough), to represent him in that backward state. While we don't have the details, Manafort cleared about 12.7 million (dollars, rubles, what's the dif?) moonlighting to make ends meet, because our President-in-waiting wasn't known to pay that much for his campaign managers, and had a history of stiffing employees anyway. You can't really blame Paul, what with inflation and heavy American taxes, which you don't have to worry about if you're in Ukraine. Or Cyprus, for that matter.

As for Putin's connection to our President, I say pish-posh, idle DNC chatter. If there was an angle there, Debby the Washerwoman would have spotted it and probably signed on herself. If there's a Russian-Israeli Mafia, why not a Russia-Wasserman Mafia? (Forgive me for that one, Lord, as Larry the Cable Guy used to say). I'm getting carried away.

We know that Donald visited Russia from time to time. Nothing wrong with that. It's rumored that he favors Borscht with an egg, vodka milk shakes and the Bolshoi Ballet. So why shouldn't he, whenever gets bored with Miami? And good-looking models in his suite at the Moscow Hilton? Even Melania would tell you he just likes attractive women around because he admires the fine art of equal opportunity. It's even rumored that Putin has stuff on him, that's where the Charlie McCarthy libel comes in, you know, that Putin controls him. I say, balderdash. Everybody my age knows that Charlie McCarthy actually controlled Edgar Bergen. Bergen himself was always complaining about it.

Getting back to the military stuff, the theory is that Putin wants to diminish American world supremacy, not by defeating us in a war, but by eroding our institutions, weakening our world standing and thereby raising the Russian image and status in world affairs. This theory points out that he has interfered in NATO and Euro nations' elections, at least in Sweden, Belgium and France, as well as ours. That's as erroneous as saying that he had anything to

do with the British ex-MI6 agent who was whacked because he blew the whistle on the Trump/Putin *pas-de-deux*. It was probably a grouse shooting accident, like the one that got Cheney at Doubleya's ranch. Everybody knows how careless Limeys are with guns, so much so that they have never even allowed Bobbies to carry guns, except maybe during the Battle of Britain.

And what's so wrong with taking a keen interest in other countries' elections? Our own Steve Bannon, the President's staunchest advisor in the deconstruction of worthless government institutions does that all the time. He, Bannon, doesn't like NATO and the Euro idea that much himself. Listen, didn't it take a Cardinal Richelieu to show Louis XIV the right path to Christian salvation. Just in time, too.

Richelieu was called the "eminence gris" in Louis' court. Bannon may not be grey, but he is eminent.

Anyway, because of all this Democratic Party fingerpointing, we have - in addition to the CIA, the FBI, the NSA a Congressional Intelligence Committee and a Senate

Intelligence Committee all trying to prove that Our President and his counterpart in Mother Russia did sneaky things together. Fortunately, Congressman Devin Nunes, the Congressional Committee Chairman, followed the right course the other day when – on learning what he called some important new information – before informing his bipartisan Committee, he went to the White House and told the perp before he told the investigators. That’s easily explainable. Nunes is from California, where they believe in the rights of perps. So he should be applauded for his sense of fairplay. My God, look at Steinbach and Cannery Row. Look at the the butterflies in Pacific Grove. Look at Clint Eastwood as Mayor of Carmel. And that’s just on the Monterey Peninsula. In fair play, California is way ahead of us, man.

What does all this add up to? A tempest in a tea pot, which returning to Rand Paul, is like Boston Harbor all over again. China wants to defeat us economically, not militarily, Russia wants to defeat us politically, but in a nice way. Only the North Koreans have evil intentions, and they’re just nutcases. Finally, Putin has explained that to our President

very carefully A guy accidentally fell out of a 14-story window in Russia the other day because he didn't comprehend the Russian mission to liberate the Crimea. He was another obstructionist in the Duma and probably drank too much vodka.

Oh, I forgot. What has all this to do with Russian Roulette? Well, Putin is so clever (something we might learn from him) that, just as he doesn't need a big military, a big defense budget or a fleet of zillion dollar aircraft carriers in order to show the inadequacies in our system, you only need one cartridge in all six chambers. As the dissident trouble maker hiding out in the Ukraine found out.

Any kind of roulette is beyond me. I can't even win at the Riviera's \$1 blackjack table in Vegas.