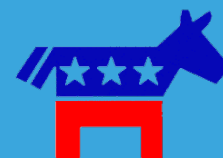




THE PROGRESSIVE



September 2022

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AUGUST MEETING RECAP CORY DOCTOROW: "MONOPOLY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL"

At the La Mesa Club's August 3 Zoom meeting, Mitch Wagner who is arguably the most erudite and polished interviewer since Edward R. Murrow (certainly San Diego's best), introduced his friend, our feature speaker, Cory Doctorow, an activist, journalist, blogger, science fiction writer, and long-time anti-monopoly champion. Speaking from his home in Burbank, CA, Mr. Doctorow's topic was "Monopoly is the root of all evil." Born in Toronto of Polish immigrants, a recent new US citizen, words cannot describe the glittering brilliance of his reply to Mitch Wagner's question: given a litany of other worldly concerns, "Why should we care about monopolies?"

Cory Doctorow said we are in a "seminal moment." He described horrific details of the nightmare inflicted on society by Republican sponsored Neo-Liberal economic policies that have supported the alarming growth of monopolies throughout industry and aftermarkets, their effects upon limiting new business and creating adverse social conditions. Chiefly occurring over the last forty years, they have progressively driven the young and the working class into the dust, and homeless onto the streets, not just in the US but globally with US industry moving offshore. While enriching the top ten percent of U.S. households in wealth beyond anything America's 19th century Gilded Age had ever dreamed, the bottom fifty percent of American households virtually have no net assets.

Asked by a Club member what President Biden and the Democrats are doing to reverse these trends, Mr. Doctorow referenced President Biden's sweeping July 9, 2021 "Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy." The Executive Order outlined 72 initiatives to rein in industry after industry, corporate powerhouses that control markets to society's disadvantage. All 72 initiatives are now

coming into play in the most dramatic regulatory economic redirection since Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

President Biden made three key appointments to drive his progressive antitrust agenda:

Lena Khan to head the Federal Trade Commission;

Jonathan Kanter to lead the Justice Department's Antitrust Division; and

Tim Wu was brought into the National Economic Council to be architect of the July 2021 Executive Order, and leader of 18 federal agencies to administer its 72 initiatives.

Mr. Doctorow described Lena Khan as the "the most salient political appointment of any president in at least twenty years." As a third-year law student, she wrote a blockbuster article titled "Amazon's Antitrust Paradox" (Yale Law Review, Jan. 2017) which comprehensively demolished the economic theories of Robert Bork who had fostered economic policies that unleashed these monopolies on America. He erroneously claimed overriding value as long as consumer prices were falling, regardless of any impact on jobs, families, communities, cities, or any other concern. Doctorow proclaimed Lena Khan as "stone brilliant," who understands the levers of power and how to pull them, and she has a posse.

Cont. on P3

IN PERSON MEETING IN SEPTEMBER!

Be sure to join us on
September 7 at 7pm
La Mesa Community Center
4975 Memorial Drive
(social time begins at 6:30)

The Progressive Voice is the monthly newsletter of the La Mesa - Foothills Democratic Club, serving the communities of La Mesa, Mt. Helix, San Carlos, Del Cerro, Allied Gardens, and the SDSU and other East County areas since 1984.

TAKE THE AT-HOME POLITICAL TEST:

WHICH PARTY PROVES IT KNOWS HOW TO GOVERN AND WHICH PARTY PROVES ITS STILL CRUEL AND CRAZY?

Since Californians have spent the last month or two with the specter of Omicron stalking us wherever we go, most of us have become proficient at taking at-home Covid tests. Of course It's important to know the status of our body's health. But what about our body politic? How can we tell if one political party or another is good for our country's health? How can we tell if one party knows how to effectively legislate for the nation's benefit? Or, how can we know if a political party is populated by officeholders and candidates who lie incessantly, and who brazenly take positions contrary to Americans' desires?

As a service to public, political health, please feel free to take the following, at-home political test. No swabs are required.

Question 1: What political party just passed the single most important piece of climate legislation in American history, that will also lower healthcare costs?

Answer: Democrats. The single most important piece of climate legislation in American history, the bill makes massive investments in climate, tax and health care policy. It will reduce the nation's budget deficit by \$102 billion over 10 years, and puts in place mechanisms to help the Federal Reserve fight inflation for years ahead.

On climate, the law will create clean energy tax credits, environmental justice grants and drought resilience funding. Importantly, jump-starting and supporting clean energy industries could create millions of jobs, many in communities that have relied on fossil fuels. So the skills that oil, coal and gas workers possess will be in consistent demand, as the nation transitions to a clean energy footing.

On healthcare, the law extends Affordable Care Act subsidies for three more years, and it allows Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices.

Question 2: Which political party blocked efforts to cap insulin prescription prices, and also voted to deprive veterans of their guaranteed healthcare for medical issues attributable to their combat service?

Answer: Republicans. Democrats have tried for years to cap insulin prices, which have skyrocketed in recent years. 37 million Americans, more than 1 in 10, have diabetes. Democrats had a provision in the bill to cap the prescription's cost at \$35. Republicans apparently were more interested in pleasing their BigPharma campaign donors, so they blocked the provision in the Senate.

Republican senators also voted "No" on the PACT Act. The Act expands VA benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. In June, Republican senators voted for the bill. But when it came time for final passage this month, 25 Republicans changed their vote. Why? In a fit of utter childishness, Senate Republicans were mad that the Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, without a single GOP vote. So angered were they by the Democrats' success that they took out their hurt feelings on wounded combat vets. Only after they were publicly humiliated and shamed by veterans' groups, Jon Stewart and others, did the Republicans sheepishly vote to reverse their temper tantrum opposition.

Question 3: What party passed the CHIPS Act that strengthens our national security against China by investing in US semiconductor manufacturing?

Answer: Democrats. The legislation, in the works for two years, will decrease U.S. reliance on computer chips manufactured in China and other countries, and will also fund science and technology research to keep American industries competitive with foreign firms. Unsurprisingly, many Republicans ended up opposing passage of this critical national security legislation. Why? See the above re: temper tantrum.

Question 4: Which party welcomed Hungary's authoritarian leader, Viktor Orban, to the US this week, the same party that saw many successful primary campaigns by candidates who openly endorse efforts to dismantle American democratic institutions?

Answer: Republicans. The GOP continues to embrace the crypto-fascist Orban, as they did this week in Dallas when, at Republicans' invitation, he addressed the CPAC convention in Dallas. This is just two weeks after he gave a speech in which he endorsed the white supremacist "replacement theory," and denounced a "mixed race world." The Hungarian autocrat regularly denounces gay and lesbian people, and openly vilifies immigrants. Orban has corrupted the judicial and electoral systems in Hungary to the point where it is no longer considered a functioning democracy. The gathered Republicans in Texas gave him a standing ovation. It's worth noting that, at one point, the CPAC stage was adorned with a banner that read. "We are all domestic terrorists."

This summer, Republican primaries across the country were won by candidates who advocate overturning elections or imprisoning their opponents. The GOP candidate for governor in Pennsylvania, and its candidate for secretary of state in Arizona, were both outside the US Capitol during the January 6 coup attempt. A GOP candidate for US Senate wants to lock up Anthony Fauci for his efforts to slow the spread of Covid. And another Republican gubernatorial candidate has called for her opponent to be jailed for certifying Biden's electoral victory.

Question 5: What party's President got much of the above accomplished while he was working from home because of Covid?

Answer: The Democrats'. Let's go Brandon, indeed.

Question 6: Which party's most recent president wished US generals were more like Nazi generals?

Answer: Republicans'. John Kelly, Trump's former Chief of Staff and a retired US Marine Corps general, said Trump once said to him, "You f-ing generals, why can't you be like the German generals?" When Trump confirmed he was referring to Nazi generals, Kelly pointed out to his boss that Hitler's generals had tried to assassinate him three times. Trump, obviously a brilliant student of history, disagreed, and continued to praise the Nazis saying, "No, No, no, they were totally loyal to him."

If you answered "Democrat" to all odd numbered questions, and "Republican" to all even numbered questions, congratulations, you are in good political health. If you didn't, you may have been isolating at home too long with an unhealthy diet of Fox News. Ask you doctor if truth and factual information are right for you.

*By Sean Quintal
La Mesa Foothills
Democratic Club VP,
Laws & Legislation*

August Meeting Recap (continued from pg 1)

For the Justice Department, President Biden appointed Jonathan Kanter Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division confirmed November 2021.

Beginning his career as an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission, having digital technology expertise, he moved to leading law firms where he represented major corporations, most notably Microsoft and News Corporation. Yet he is considered as a leading advocate for strong, meaningful antitrust enforcement supporting competitive policies as the optimal business environment for shared economic growth. He is one of the most prominent figures among progressives to rein in powerful corporations. His appointment was backed by Tim Wu, Lena Kahn, and Elizabeth Warren, among many others.

Shortly after becoming president, on March 5, 2021, President Biden named Tim Wu, a Columbia University law professor, to the National Economic Council as special assistant to the president for technology and competition policy. President Biden placed one of the most outspoken critics of Big Tech's power into the administration.

Cory Doctorow admits his bias in favoring Tim Wu. He was his childhood friend and Dungeons & Dragons buddy. Wu became the primary architect of Biden's July 9, 2021 "Executive Order on Promoting Competition" which contained 72 initiatives. He had previously worked on competition policy under President Barack Obama in addition to stints at the FTC and the New York Attorney General's office. As Doctorow described, the White House pulled together pre-existing plans supported by laws, prepared over the years by industrial experts ("nerds"), and in some cases retrieved from deep White House archives. Designed to boost competition throughout the economy, they target a range of industries including technology, transportation, health care and agriculture. Following the July 2021 Executive Order, Wu organized periodic meetings across 18 separate federal agencies to implement the 72 initiatives (now well on their way), dovetailing their work, layered across the various agencies to maximize their consolidated impact to overcome industrial resistance.

Mr. Doctorow is articulate, expressive, and fast. Even those who attended the Zoom session may further benefit by tuning into the LMFDC website You-tube recording: <https://lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com>

The La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club represents the communities of San Carlos, Del Cerro, Santee, La Mesa, Mt. Helix, Allied Gardens, College Area, Casa de Oro, and other nearby communities.

Monthly meetings of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club typically feature office holders, candidates for office, community leaders and subject matter experts. The next LMFDC meeting will be on Wednesday September 7, 2022 at 7PM via Zoom.

The Zoom link can be found at www.lmfdems.com/zoom. We hope to meet in person for September, but the final decision will be made at a later date.



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OKTOBERFEST!

It won't be too long before we're wearing lederhosen and dirndl dresses and the streets of La Mesa are filled with people having fun, enjoying delicious food, and looking for unusual arts and crafts. La Mesa Dems will have a booth filled with visiting local candidates, political flyers, and information regarding local and national issues. We will also be registering people to vote. You won't be able to miss us because Joe Biden, Obama and Kamala will be standing close by to give a hand! Oktoberfest will be Friday September 30th through October 2nd, so mark your calendars and join in the fun. Stop by the booth, talk with some candidates, or volunteer to hold down the fort for a few hours.

Email Merrill Perry if you have an unstoppable urge to volunteer: mynylacat@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

La Mesa City Council Meetings
Tuesday, September 13, 6:00PM
Tuesday, September 27, 6:00PM
Link for live stream available at:
cityoflamesa.us/247/City-Council

LMFDC September MEETING
September 7, 2022
Meeting begins at 7:00PM
La Mesa Community Center
4975 Memorial Dr.

La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club

Claude and Beverly Cassirer, Founders



OFFICERS

President: Tina Rynberg
 Vice President, Membership: Katie Sigeti
 Vice President, Political Action: Chris Pearson
 Vice President, Laws & Legislation: Sean Quintal
 Secretary: Merrill Perry
 Treasurer: Gene Mullaly
 Communications Director: Mitch Wagner
 Past President: Linda Armacost

Board Members at Large

Sharon Cox
 Ric Epps
 Jessica Hayes
 Tracey Magnuson
 Brenda Miller
 Matt Strabone

MEET THE LOCAL CANDIDATES

Brianna Coston

Brianna is running for La Mesa Spring Valley School Board in Trustee Area 3 because she believes that she can help take LMSVSD from good to great. Kids are our future, and their first priority on campus should be learning. School should be a safe community for children to learn and grow without fear. Many students fell behind during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we need to work together to help all students succeed. We cannot support students without fully supporting educators. We are losing high quality staff due to the burnout of teaching in a pandemic, gun violence threats, and perpetual budget cuts. Brianna is committed to expanding affordable childcare programs, reducing budget cuts, and providing all schools with the supplies they need to best educate their students. Learn more about Brianna and her campaign at www.BriannaCoston.com.

Andrea Beth Damsky

Drought, water insecurity and unnecessary rate hikes - these are the reasons I am running for Helix Water District Director in Division 2. I am in my 5th year of serving, and have been elected as Chair of the Commission for 3 consecutive years. My undergraduate degree is in Environmental Science.

Understanding the impacts of climate change is essential, and makes me the right person for this job because our weather patterns are shifting. Rainfall is unpredictable. Our main water source, the Colorado River, is nearing endangered status. We need backup plans. I will make sure that we have a secure water supply, that our water is pure and healthy, and I will work to prevent unnecessary, expensive water rate hikes. A vote for me is a vote for the future of our community. Learn more, contribute, or volunteer at www.AndreaBethDamsky.com

Patricia Dillard

I want to thank everyone for supporting me in my 2021 campaign and I am making my official announcement for 2022 candidacy for La Mesa City Council, and I hope you will support me. I have lived in La Mesa for over 27 years where my husband and I raised our three children and during that time I have always found ways to give back to our community.

I am running because I know I can help make a difference in the City of La Mesa. I serve as the Vice Chair of the Community Police Oversight Board for over two and one-half years where I work with the La Mesa Police Department to address excessive force, implicit bias, and profiling in our community. I also Co-Chair the La Mesa Juneteenth & Friends annual event. With two seats open this year, I hope that I can count on your vote and support! www.PatriciaDillard.com

Matt Strabone

What if La Mesa could raise more money without raising any taxes and without cutting any services? Just imagine what La Mesa could do with more money: Should we expand hours at the library? Hire more first responders? Clean up the parks? Fix the roads? And what if La Mesa already had the means and resources to raise this money and do these things? Good news: it does! La Mesa has a rainy-day fund worth about \$60 million that can be invested safely (in U.S. Treasury bonds, for example) to generate new revenue. It's the Treasurer's job to make those investments, and if they are made wisely, La Mesa will earn hundreds of thousands — or even millions — of dollars more every year. Those extra services you were imagining? La Mesa can and should have them. That's why I'm running for City Treasurer: because La Mesa deserves more. You deserve more. www.MattForLaMesa.com

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