



Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Press Inquiry for Fla-15 Congressional Candidates

Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 14, 2020 at 12:14 PM

To: Scott@votescottfranklin.com, SF@votescottfranklin.com, Scott.Franklin@lakelandgov.net, "Mutz, Bill" <Bill.Mutz@lakelandgov.net>, info <info@rossspano.com>, Morgan@rossspano.com, Ross@rossspano.com, RossSpano15@gmail.com, "Rep. Ross Spano" <RepRossSpano@mail.house.gov>, Tyler Dever <Tyler.Dever@mail.house.gov>, "Jackson, Tony" <Tony.Jackson@mail.house.gov>, "Wright, Logan" <Logan.Wright@mail.house.gov>, "Bucheli, Daniel" <Daniel.Bucheli@mail.house.gov>, Info@alancohnforcongress.com, Alan@alancohnforcongress.com, AlanMichaelCohn@gmail.com, Adam@hattersleyforcongress.com, AdamHattersley@hattersleyforcongress.com, Adam.Hattersley@myfloridahouse.gov, Info@jessephilippe.com, JessePhilippe3@gmail.com
Cc: newstips@theledger.com, voice <voice@theledger.com>, Bob Heist <bheist@theledger.com>, KMoore@theledger.com, SWalsh@theledger.com, gary.white@theledger.com, newstips@lkldnow.com, tampa@tampabay.com, tampanews@tampabay.com, wemarch@gmail.com, March@tampabay.com, WMarch@tampabay.com, newstips@wfts.com, news@wfla.com, desk@charter.com, desk@wtsp.com, sandrews@wfla.com, tips@baynews9.com, tips@wtsp.com, news@wtvt.com, 28investigates@wfts.com, desk@wkmg.com, FOX13tampanews@foxtv.com, WTVTfeedback@foxtv.com, WTVTinvestigates@foxtv.com, NewsManager@wkmg.com, TheInvestigators@wkmg.com, "Gww1210@aol.com" <gww1210@aol.com>, Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Bcc: "Gww12102002@yahoo.com" <gww12102002@yahoo.com>, Gordon Watts <gordonwaynewatts@hotmail.com>, Gordon Watts <gordonwaynewatts@aol.com>, thirst4justice <thirst4justice@yahoo.com>

From: Gordon Wayne Watts, Editor-in-Chief, The Register
Date: Friday, 14 August 2020
Subject: Press Inquiry for Fla-15 Congressional Candidates
To: Fla-15 Congressional Candidates (Primary and General)

Dear Fla-15 Congressional Candidates: [[cc as indicated: See 'cc' line above & explanation, below]]

(D) ALAN COHN, ADAM HATTERSLEY, and JESSE PHILIPPE
(R) SCOTT FRANKLIN and ROSS SPANO

Please find below *[[and attached as a 'stable PDF' and an 'editable Word doc']]* my press inquiry, with mostly “yes or no” questions. (They may be “tricky” and difficult questions, but I am not attempting to ask “trick” questions to attack or insult any of the candidates, or play political games, that is.) You can—if you like—change your mind later, should you chose—assuming there's still time. Lastly, while I will make every honest effort to publish on time (e.g., not waste your time with a Survey/Questionnaire aka Press Inquiry), I encourage you to consider publishing yourself anything (on your campaign websites, social media, –or, better yet, “replying to all,” and noting the other press cc recipients) so as to honour both the “Free Press Doctrine”^[17] (regarding press' moral responsibility) and the “Open Press Doctrine”^[17] (which relates to the right of every person to have his Free Speech rights). I suggest this to give our readers (voters) the best chance to be informed.

NAME: Gordon W. Watts, Editor-in-Chief of The Register (but not the only writer, just the chief writer)

OUTLET: The Register web-ring (with social media pages, FB, T, YT), as listed in the left-hand column of the flagship mirrors: <https://GordonWatts.com> (hosted by GoDaddy) and <https://GordonWayneWatts.com> (hosted by HostGator)

DEADLINE: As this Tuesday, 18 August 2020 is Primary Election Day, and “Early Voting” has already begin, my press deadline is ****immediate**** and “time sensitive.” [[Note: My deep apologies for being late to send this press inquiry, but my backup power went offline and lost power, and this seems to have damaged my workhorse computer, thus slowing me down by several orders of magnitude.]] **In light of the deadline issues, I intend to publish this Press Inquiry immediately, and “update results,” as your answers pour in.**

PHONE: 863.687.6141 ; 863.688.9880 ; E-MAILS: Gww1210@aol.com ; Gww1210@Gmail.com

QUESTIONS are of 2 types: Personal behaviour / morals, and Policy / Legislative. ***Administrative Note:*** I will be emailing your “campaign” email addresses, but also “cc” copying your “public” work email addresses, in order to give you a head's up. CAVEAT: The Hatch Act (Public Law 76-252)[**] prohibits you from using your work emails, if “Federal” in nature, to respond to campaign / political issues (using Federal tax dollars). (And likely similar provisions exist in the Lakeland City ordinances for their City commissioners.) But I'm exercising this option under the First Amendment's “Free Press” and “Free Speech” clauses to give you a head's up—as a courtesy. You may respond from your personal or campaign emails.

[**] <https://USLaw.link/citation/us-law/public/76/252>

and: https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatch_Act_of_1939

and: <https://GovTrackUS.s3.amazonaws.com/legislink/pdf/stat/53/STATUTE-53-Pg1147.pdf>

PERSONAL / Behavioural-morals Questions (Candidates in alphabetical order)

1-of-5_SF: SCOTT FRANKLIN: Why did you not reply to my prior press inquiries of May 13, 2020 on your Facebook page, by telephone messages (voice mails) I left sometime before that (referenced in my post), and my subsequent unreturned voice mails this past August 3, 2020? [[NOTE: I'm not trying to insult or attack you, here, as I, myself, was negligent in not speaking to you in person at public events, but only 3 answers seem possible: 1- my press inquiries were too difficult; 2- maybe I am too 'small' a news outlet to be taken seriously (bias/prejudice), or 3- perhaps, you were genuinely too busy. I will accept any answer you give me, as I have no moral high ground for my own tardiness, explained above.]] But, I add this appended question: Why did you answer Mark Fredrickson's and Linda Temples' questions in the same thread, but ignore mine?

LINK: https://Facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=126363952370942&id=103506984656639

Archive-1: <http://Archive.vn/wip/7VRRb> or: <http://Archive.vn/wip/ySOSu> [[comments clipped; See other links or archive, below]]

Archive-2: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200814131613/https://gordonwatts.com/Scott-Franklin_Non-

[Answer_PDF.pdf](#)

Archive-3: https://GordonWatts.com/Scott-Franklin_Non-Answer_PDF.pdf

Archive-4: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/Scott-Franklin_Non-Answer_PDF.pdf

“Annotated” SCREENSHOT:

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/AnnotatedScottFranklinScreenshot_PNG.PNG

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/AnnotatedScottFranklinScreenshot_PNG.PNG

Archive-1: <http://Archive.vn/QSF7G>

Archive-2: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200814133135/https://gordonwatts.com/AnnotatedScottFranklinScreenshot_PNG.PNG

Likewise, why did you not return either of my voice mail messages (either referenced in the May 13 thread or the August 3 screenshot)?

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/THREE-Unanswered-Press-Inquiries_JPG.JPG

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/THREE-Unanswered-Press-Inquiries_JPG.JPG

Archive-1: <http://Archive.vn/wip/uOxCo>

Archive-2: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200814133603/https://gordonwatts.com/THREE-Unanswered-Press-Inquiries_JPG.JPG

1-of-5_RS: ROSS SPANO: As you have been more available and tried to answer my questions, when we spoke on several occasions, I credit you (and have no question in this regard), but, even in spite of your genuine motives/intents and good track record on some issues, some of the answers you gave me on selected legislative issues appeared “very wrong,” at least on Constitutional grounds—and I will address them below, in lieu of this question.

1-of-5_DEMOCRATS: ALAN COHN, ADAM HATTERSLEY, and JESSE PHILIPPE: Due to my own negligence in seeking a timely press inquiry earlier, you have a “1st-round bye” on this question. My apologies—I hope to make up for it and be “responsible press” moving forward. However, the “policy” questions, below, are directed at all 5 candidates—including you all—the 3 Democratic candidates.

2-of-5_SF: SCOTT FRANKLIN: One of your campaign flyers said that: “Congressman Ross Spano voted against President Trump's budget, which included funding for his border wall,” citing a 7/25/2020 news article in the Tampa Bay Times (apparently “GOP congressional primary between Spano and Franklin

turns nasty,” by William March). However, when reading the actual news item in question, <https://www.TampaBay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2020/07/25/gop-congressional-primary-between-spano-and-franklin-turns-nasty/>, it says that “Spano supports the border wall, but in December 2019 voted against the entire federal budget, citing the growing national debt. The budget included wall funding.” Furthermore, isn't it true that the budget bill in question (apparently H.R.1158 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, 116th Congress (2019-2020), which became Public Law No: 116-93 on 12/20/2019), which apportioned only a miserly \$31 Million for the border wall in Section 202 (or about \$1.375 Billion of the \$1.4 Trillion, according to Rep. Spano's closing remarks at about the 1-hour, 21-minute mark, in the recent forum/debate, referenced below), was a just reason for a “Border wall supporter” to reject the budget on insufficient funding, and other restrictions which would tie President Trump's hands in quantity and quality of border wall construction?

In light of the fact that Congressman Spano had excellent “Conservative justification” for voting against this “very weak” bill – and was joined by not a few Republican lawmakers, including Conservative congressman, Matt Gaetz (R-FL-01), who also endorses Mr. Franklin, as documented in this roll call vote <https://Clerk.House.gov/Votes/2019690> on Dec. 17, 2019, don't you think it's appropriate for to apologize to Mr. Spano for implying or saying that he opposed Trump's “border wall” agenda? (That's a “yes or no” question.)

2-of-5_RS: ROSS SPANO: In the recent forum/debate this past Saturday, 08 August 2020, at Lakeland's Ignited Church (at about the 1-hour, 09-minute mark of the video, here: <https://vimeo.com/445888418>), you accused Scott Franklin of making campaign contributions/donations to Alex Sink “when she was the Democratic nominee” against then Gov. Rick Scott, her general election opponent. However, a query of the Florida Department of State: Division of Elections contributions database <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/cgi-bin/contrib.exe> from <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/campaign-finance/contributions/#both> searching for Payees with last name “Franklin” from “Lakeland” donating to candidates with last name “Sink,” during that 2010 election cycle, finds only three (3) donations on 06/22/2009 and 05/13/2010, clearly within the Primary election cycle (and mathematically impossible for Sink to have been a nominee at this point) – only two (2) of which were definitely from Mr. Franklin, and his wife, Amy, on 6/22.

Regardless of the political or moral wisdoms of a “Conservative” Republican, like Franklin, donating to “the lesser of 2 evils,” the apparent motives, here, in light of the documented donation paper-trail, don't you think it's appropriate for to you apologize to Mr. Franklin for implying or saying that he donated to Sink when she was running against Scott in the General Election (when in fact it was during the primary)? (That's a “yes or no” question.)

NOTE: I am aware of the controversy surrounding the Lakeland City Commission's vote to move a Confederate memorial statue from its prominent location in downtown Munn Park, but shall decline to ask any such questions—as I deem this a waste of time to argue over inanimate objects (flags, statues,

monuments) or actions (standing, kneeling, saluting, etc.), when real people are important. (You are free to object to my view on this.)

3-of-5_SF: SCOTT FRANKLIN: In the recent forum/debate this past Saturday, 08 August 2020, at Lakeland's Ignited Church (at about the 1-hour, 12-minute, 34-second mark of the video), you accused Rep. Spano of refusing to endorse President Trump during the General Election, when he was running against Sen. Hillary Clinton—an accusation which was repeated in past campaign mailers “publicly refused to support Trump over Hillary” (citing to the Times' 10/08/2016 article, referenced here: <https://www.TampaBay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2020/07/25/gop-congressional-primary-between-spano-and-franklin-turns-nasty/> apparently, “Trump's comments spark panic, outrage with Florida Republicans,” by William March). Although Mr. Spano, in his rebuttal remarks, denied ever speaking to the Times' editorial board, you did not know that (thus, it can't be held against you). However, a closer look at the 2016 article (archived here: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20170423222132/http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/florida-gop-objects-trumps-lewdness-but-few-reject-trump/2297144> apparently “Trump's comments spark panic, outrage with Florida Republicans,” by William March, Tampa Bay Times, Saturday, October 8, 2016, 4:56pm) reveals that almost ALL the GOP candidates and politicians of that era roundly criticized and condemned Trump's “lewd comments in 2005 about groping and seducing women,” in his infamous interview with reporter Billy Bush, a cousin to President George W. Bush.

Even assuming Mr. Spano declined to endorse Trump over Hillary Clinton (which he denies), it is a fact that, even were he to do so, Mr. Spano would have been in good company along with many “heavy weight” GOP leaders in lobbying the strongest criticism against Trump for inappropriate comments.

In light of these facts, don't you think it's appropriate for to apologize to Mr. Spano for leaving out critical “context” –sometimes called “lying by omission” (and/or for implying that he was a “never-Trumper), when quoting the Times article that said Mr. Spano opposed Trump's candidacy? (That's a “yes or no” question.)

3-of-5_RS: ROSS SPANO: It is a well-known fact that you loaned your campaign \$180,000.00[[a.]] (or possibly \$167,000.00[[b.]]) that was borrowed from two friends, apparently a violation of Campaign Finance laws (which place limits on how much an individual person can contribute). Although this seems old news (you apologized and admitted that you didn't know such a transfer was illegal—and immediately self-reported it to the FEC once there as a question), in all fairness, I must ask you if you'd like to add anything to this. (That's a “yes or no” question.)

[[a.]] * <https://www.TampaBay.com/news/hillsborough/2020/02/25/ross-spano-sticks-to-illegal-contributions-defense-wont-reveal-key-facts/>

[[a.]] * <https://www.TampaBay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2020/02/10/florida-bar-investigating-ross-spano-for-campaign-finance-violations-from-irregular-loans/>

[[b.]] * <https://www.TheLedger.com/story/news/local/2020/06/18/fec-flags-excess-contributions-to-spano-campaign/112608666/>

4-of-5_SF: SCOTT FRANKLIN: Referring to the question above, directed to your primary opponent, it is only fair for me to play “devil's advocate,” and assume you are wrong on the merits. Let's say that Mr. Spano borrowed the same amount from a bank (or from another bank account of his, whose funds came from prior donations many decades ago for unrelated purposes). Would you still say that this was illegal and immoral, as your campaign mailers seem to suggest? (That's a “yes or no” question: If 'yes', then please clarify how/why a personal loan from a bank—mathematically equivalent—could be illegal, once the money became Mr. Spano's to loan to himself.)

4-of-5_RS: ROSS SPANO: A Franklin mailer accuses you of voting “for in-state tuition for illegal aliens” and voting “to allow this issuing of Drivers Licenses to illegal aliens,” when you were a state lawmaker, citing H.B.851 (3/20/2014) and H.B.235 (4/25/2014), apparently these:

“...prohibiting denial of classification as a resident for tuition purposes based on certain immigration status;... (12)(a) A state university, a Florida College System institution, a career center operated by a school district under 503 s. 1001.44, or a charter technical career center shall waive out-of-state fees for students, including, but not limited to, students who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes...,” from H.B. 851 (2014) linked here:

https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_h0851er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0851&Session=2014

which passed with an 84-32 margin on Friday, May 02, 2014:

<https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Bills/floorvote.aspx?VoteId=15252&BillId=52001&SessionId=75&>

“Includes notice of approval of application for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals [DACA] status issued by U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services as valid proof of identity for purposes of applying for driver license.”

H.B. 235 (2013) - “Requirements for Driver Licenses,” linked here:

<https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49465&SessionId=73>

and a bill originally filed by then-Representative Matt Gaetz (who is a strong supporter of Scott Franklin), linked here:

<https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=062929>

[docx&DocumentType=Amendments&BillNumber=0235&Session=2013](#)

and was eventually passed 115-2, documented here: [Note: Without, however, Gaetz' vote this time.]

<https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Bills/floorvote.aspx?VoteId=14124&BillId=49465&SessionId=73&>

and into this final bill: <https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0235er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0235&Session=2013>

It appears that Lakeland Commissioner, Scott Franklin, your primary opponent, is correct in both his allegations—listed on his mailer. Can you offer any explanation or justification from what appears to be a clear departing from Conservative principles? (That's a “yes or no” question. If 'yes', then please clarify how/why you are correct on Conservative principles.)

5-of-5_SF: SCOTT FRANKLIN: Referring to the question above, directed to Mr. Spano, even the Times – a well-known Liberal paper – supported Mr. Spano, in the an article you referenced, no less, saying this: “Spano’s 2014 vote for in-state tuition for illegal immigrants went along with an initiative by Republican leaders including then-state House Speaker Will Weatherford and then-Gov. Rick Scott.”

Moreover, a close look at the roll call votes on both bills shows a sizable majority of the House of Representatives (controlled by the GOP) to have voted – rightly, or wrongly – in favour of both bills.

If you're calling Mr. Spano 'Liberal' for his vote, then are you not also calling most of the state Lawmakers 'Liberal' also, for voting for these bills? (I'm not attempting to insult you; Maybe you are—and, if so, maybe you would be right. – I'm just the investigative press asking the “hard questions.”) That's a “yes or no” question.

5-of-5_RS: ROSS SPANO: The 8/3/2020 Times article says that: “The “open borders” accusation [from your mailers] is based on Franklin comments in favor of “comprehensive immigration reform,” a phrase the ads call “Bush era code language for open borders ... reduced national sovereignty and lax security.””

It also said that: “A series of digital ads call Franklin a “never-Trumper” and “liberal,” tie him to “socialist Democrats” and Nancy Pelosi. Spano’s campaign didn’t respond to emailed questions about the basis.”

QUESTIONS: Can you explain how Franklin's comments prove that he is for “open borders” and/or is a “never-Trumper,” and also: Can you explain why the Times claims that you didn't respond to their press inquiry email. (That's a “yes or no” question. If 'yes', then please clarify how/why you are correct on these 2

matters.)

THREE (3) POLICY Questions: For all five (5) candidates – on Higher Ed and National Security / Grid

(And a 'template' should I choose to ask other Congressional, Senatorial, or Presidential candidates)

[Higher Education] “Polk Perspective: Offer relief for taxes dressed up as ‘loans’,” By Gordon Wayne Watts, Guest columnist, *The Ledger*, November 19, 2019, **LINK:** <https://TheLedger.com/opinion/20191119/polk-perspective-offer-relief-for-taxes-dressed-up-as-loans>

FAIR USE CACHE #1: <https://GordonWatts.com/TheLedger-Online-PDF-FairUsecache-WATTS-GuestColumn-Tue19Nov2019.pdf>

FAIR USE CACHE #2:

<https://GordonWAYNEwatts.com/TheLedger-Online-PDF-FairUse-cache-WATTS-GuestColumnTue19Nov2019.pdf>

[Environment / Science / National Security] “Probability estimation of a catastrophic Carrington–like geomagnetic storm: Re–evaluated in new light of upcoming Maunder Minimum and recent decreases in geomagnetic field, after recent studies came to conflicting conclusions; Proposed solutions for citizens and lawmakers,” Scientific Research Paper, By Gordon Wayne Watts, *ACADEMIA*, First published Wednesday, 02 October 2019,

LINK: https://www.Academia.edu/40529432/WATTS_SolarFlarePAPER

* FAIR USE CACHE #1: <https://GordonWatts.com/SolarFlarePAPER.pdf>

* FAIR USE CACHE #2: <https://GordonWayneWatts.com/SolarFlarePAPER.pdf>

Background:

Over 44 Million Americans have student debt, and another 20-30 Million are cosigners, family, or friends.[1] The eventual default rate for 2004 college debt borrowers is about 40%, according to The Brookings Institution,[2] borrowers who were only borrowing one-third of what students are borrowing currently,[3] implying a much larger default rate for current 2020 students. Moreover, 26% of all current borrowers have defaulted within just the first five (5) years[4], suggesting a much larger lifetime default rate, such as the EIGHTY (80%) PERCENT default rate[14], which Dr. A. Wayne Johnson, former COO of the U.S. Department of Education's lending program, is quoted as saying: “80% of all borrowers will never be able to repay their loans,” and that quote was *before* the COVID-19 economic downturn—implying perhaps an 85% to 90% eventual default rate, now that the U.S. Economy has “taken a hit.” This is also something which is documented to harm Black Americans 2—3 times as much.[5] Besides the excess taxation (tuition, a form of tax), there is excess spending, with nearly ten (10%) percent of U.S. debt being student debt alone.[6] –and adding roughly THREE -HUNDRED (\$300,000,000.00) MILLION Dollars to the Nat'l Debt EVERY DAY[16] – which suggests another bubble or market crash if

not put in check, something that was not a threat in the past, even when college was free in many parts of America[13], and very affordable elsewhere.[15]

Question 1: Do you support restoration of bankruptcy equality for collegiate loans as provided by H.R.2648 (and S.1414, the Senate companion bill)[7], which is supported by many Conservatives (like The American Conservative[18], National Review, Cato Institute, George Mason University, and Bloomberg[8], as well as, apparently, former Trump education official, Dr. A. Wayne Johnson[9] (and myself, the undersigned writer – a “far right” Conservative)[10] –and also supported by many Liberals & Democrats? [*This is a “yes or no” question, but to make it easier, I’ll make it multiple choice: Pick from A, B, C, D, or E, below.*]

**** A ** Yes, I support bankruptcy for college students on standard terms (not the next-to-impossible “Undue Hardship”) just like practically all other loans have.**

**** B ** Yes, I support bankruptcy defense for Student Loans—but not all other loans: The rich can “do without” bankruptcy protection: Those rich businesses “took out the loans,” and they can pay them back—no one forced those rich cats to take out a loan!**

**** C ** No! While I’ll fight to the death to protect “bankruptcy rights” for unsecured Business, Credit Card, & other irresponsible debt incurred, I OPPOSE in the “strongest terms” the student being able to have bankruptcy availability: Those students took out the loans, no one forced them—and they can repay them.**

**** D ** No: I oppose bankruptcy for Student Loans—and all other loans: I am not a double-standards hypocrite, but oppose all such discharge on principle.**

**** E ** This question is simply too hard for me: I don't know the answer.**

***Editor's Note:** You may chose any answer you like, but I will be fair and warn you that if you pick 'C' or 'E', above, and don't explain why the U.S. Constitution's Uniformity Clause (Art.I, Sec.8., Clause 4) or the “golden rule” or many religious Americans of all faiths, would preclude this, I will take issue with it—not to mention the ability of Bankruptcy to operate as a “Free Market” check on excessive lending—by the Dept of Ed—using our tax dollars—something which plagues our economy.*

Question 1 (BONUS)

**** To the Democrat candidates:** Why, when you Democrats held House, Senate, and Oval Office for the first 2 years of **President Obama's administration**, did your party NOT curb either skyrocketing tuition inflation or excessive use of taxpayer dollars to make/back student loans? (I.e., asking: If such excessive taxpayer dollars were used, why could this not have made tuition affordable, but instead both taxpayer and students lose—with only the “rich fat-cat Republicans” in Higher Ed coming out ahead?)

**** To the Republican candidates:** Why, when you Republicans held House, Senate, and Oval Office for the first 2 years of **President George W. Bush's administration** (and again, in the first 2 years of the **Trump administration**), did our party [I'm a Republican: I disclose in all fairness] NOT curb either skyrocketing tuition inflation or excessive use of taxpayer dollars to make/back student loans? (I.e., asking: If such excessive taxpayer dollars were used, why could this not have made tuition affordable, but instead both taxpayer and students lose—with only the “rich fat-cats” in “Liberal Higher Ed” coming out ahead?)

**** HINT:** One answer that is *not* correct is the assertion that the “majority” in the Senate was unable to get the legislation passed due to the “60-vote” cloture rule—as evidenced by how, in November 2013, Senate Democrats (led by Harry Reid)

used the “nuclear option” (a parliamentary procedure that allows the United States Senate to override ANY standing rule of the Senate) to eliminate the 60-vote rule on executive branch nominations and federal judicial appointments.

Question 2a: Do you support President Trump's recent requests[11] to place limits on the use of tax dollars to make and/or back (guarantee) collegiate loans? [*This is a “yes or no” question.*]

Question 2b: Do you support President Trump's rationale, as reported by FORBES, to enact loan limits in order to “**Potential Rationale:** Curb the rise of college tuition. Limit the rise in student loan debt,”[11] to fix the problem that there are too “few limits on educational institutions to limit the cost of tuition,”[11] and to reverse previous regulations which the Trump Administration believes “increased the cost of college and student loan debt”?[11] [*This is a “yes or no” question.*]

Question 2 – BONUS: What do you intend to do (and what ****have**** you done) to limit or curb excess spending??

Editorial Note: This bill has no “bill number” as it has not been enrolled, but here is a copy of a proposed bill which would grant President Trump's request, and would be “grammatically correct” in comporting with U.S. Code:

Link #1: https://GordonWatts.com/PresTRUMPS_BILLS-116hr-GWW-proposed-ih.pdf

Link #2: https://GordonWAYNEwatts.com/PresTRUMPS_BILLS-116hr-GWW-proposed-ih.pdf

Archive/Cache: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200426105958/https://GordonWAYNEwatts.com/PresTRUMPS_BILLS-116hr-GWW-proposed-ih.pdf

Question 3: Do you support President Trump's recent requests[12] to “harden the grid” against inevitable solar flares, EMP attacks, and the like, to protect critical infrastructure, satellites, power grids, etc.? [*This is a “yes or no” question.*]

Question 3 – BONUS: What do you intend to do (and what ****have**** you done) to harden/protect the Communications & Power Grid, our satellites, & other “critical infrastructure?”

This is the end of our press inquiry. Thank you for participating! With kind regards, I am, Sincerely,

Gordon Wayne Watts

Editor-in-Chief, *The Register*

References:

[1]** <https://Breitbart.com/politics/2019/04/12/amnesty-advocates-help-illegal-immigrants-get-collegescholarships-while-44-7-million-americans-saddled-with-student-debt>

** <https://BusinessInsider.com/millennials-college-not-worth-student-loan-debt-2019-4>

* <https://BusinessInsider.com/successful-y-combinator-application-goodly-new-student-debt-startup-2019-4>

* <http://TheFiscalTimes.com/2019/04/22/Elizabeth-Warren-s-New-640-Billion-Student-Debt-Cancellation-Plan>

[2] “REPORT: The looming student loan default crisis is worse than we thought,” by Judith Scott-Clayton, *The Brookings Institution*, Thursday, January 11, 2018, LINK:

<https://www.Brookings.edu/research/the-looming-student-loan-default-crisis-is-worse-than-we-thought>

[3] “One inexpensive and easy fix for the student loan problem,” by Alan Collinge, *The Washington Examiner*, November 29, 2019, LINK: <https://www.WashingtonExaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/one-inexpensive-and-easy-fix-for-the-student-loan-problem>

[4] “A quarter of borrowers who take out student loans end up defaulting within five years ... Nationwide, 26% of borrowers defaulted, Pew said.” Source: “1 in 4 Americans defaulted on their student loans, study finds,” by Sarah Min, *CBS News: MONEYWATCH*, Nov 07, 2019, LINK: <https://www.CBSnews.com/news/1-in-4-americans-defaulted-on-their-studentloans-in-five-years/>

[5] “Four years after graduating college, black students owe nearly twice as much student debt as their white peers do and are three times more likely to default on those loans, according to a new paper by the Brookings Institution.” Source: “Black College Grads Have Twice as Much Student Debt as Whites,” by Kerri Anne Renzulli, *TIME*, Oct 21, 2016, LINK:

<https://Money.com/student-debt-racial-gap/>

[6] “Today, FSA's [student debt] portfolio is nearly 10 percent of our nation's debt. [] Stop and absorb that for a moment. Ten percent of our total national debt.” Source: Speech by U.S. Education Secretary, *US Dept of Education*, Hon. Betsy DeVos, 11-27-2018 LINK: <https://www.ED.gov/news/speeches/prepared-remarks-us-secretary-education-betsy-devos-federal-student-aidstraining-conference>

[7] LINKS: <https://www.Congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2648/text> and <https://www.Congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1414/text>

[8] LINKS: https://GordonWatts.com/proof-read_Letter-to-the-President_withReferencesAndAttachments_PDF.pdf or: * https://gordonWAYNEwatts.com/proof-read_Letter-to-the-President_withReferencesAndAttachments_PDF.pdf

[9] LINKS: https://GordonWatts.com/UPDATED_KEY_NewsArticles_HigherEd_WATTS.pdf

or: LINKS: https://gordonWAYNEwatts.com/UPDATED_KEY_NewsArticles_HigherEd_WATTS.pdf

[10] Thorough “background” research, including testimony before the *U.S. House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee*, by three (3) bankruptcy experts (203-page, 7.83 MB *.PDF file),

LINK: https://GordonWatts.com/file:///C:/Documentsproof-read_Letter-to-the-Prez_ATTACHMENTS_PDF.pdf or

LINK: https://GordonWAYNEwatts.com/file:///C:/Documentsproof-read_Letter-to-the-Prez_ATTACHMENTS_PDF.pdf

[11] “Trump Proposes Limits On Student Loan Borrowing,” By Zack Friedman, *FORBES*, Tue. March 19, 2019, LINK: <https://www.Forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2019/03/19/trump-proposes-limits-on-student-loans>

[12] “Trump Acts on Critical Infrastructure Resiliency Against EMP Threats,” by Sonal Patel, *POWER*, 26 March 2019,

LINK: <https://www.PowerMag.com/trump-acts-on-critical-infrasructure-resiliency-against-emp-threats>

LINK: <https://www.Whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-coordinating-national-resilience-electromagnetic-pulses/>

Small 'Fair Use' Quote: “President Trump has signed an executive order (EO) to boost coordination for and national resilience against electromagnetic pulse (EMP) threats—both from nuclear warfare and natural events like solar superstorms. The action suggests new federal mandates to protect critical infrastructure against EMP events and attacks may be on the horizon...Industry and academia have warned for years—and the DHS has internally recognized that—EMP events, and especially high–altitude EMP (HEMP) events resulting from detonation of a nuclear device, could severely damage critical electrical infrastructure...If the E3 pulse is high enough and long enough, it can result in grid collapse and potentially damage transformers, experts warn. [] Solar weather events of sufficient intensity can cause E3–type electromagnetic impacts. In 1989, for example, a geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) caused a regional grid collapse within 92 seconds in the Hydro–Quebec power system that left six million customers without power for up to nine hours. The threat of GMDs has been played up with good reason: Space weather researchers currently estimate a 6% to 12% chance that a Carrington–class storm—a solar storm comparable in size to the largest on record—is likely to hit the earth within the next 10 years.”

[13] “Was college once free in United States, as Bernie Sanders says?,” By Amy Sherman on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., (Rated: “Mostly True”), **PolitiFact**, LINK:

<https://www.PolitiFact.com/florida/statements/2016/feb/09/bernie-s/was-college-once-free-united-states-and-it-oversea/>

QUOTE: “Our ruling [] Sanders said, "Making public colleges and universities tuition free, that exists in countries all over the world, used to exist in the United States." [] There are at least nine advanced countries that offer free college, including the recent addition of Germany. [] There was a time in the United States when some public colleges and universities charged no tuition. However, tuition has never been set as a national policy -- it is a decision for each school or state government officials. And some colleges charged tuition dating back to the 1800s. [] Sanders' statement is accurate but needs clarification. We rate this statement Mostly True.” COMMENTARY: If we had 'free' college in the past (or real close to it), then the more-moderate compromises are very reasonable, if not outright required to prevent a crash of the dollar, etc.

For more information, see either front-page news of The Register (linked above) or see this compilation of recent news articles: http://GordonWatts.com/UPDATED_KEY_NewsArticles_HigherEd_WATTS.pdf

or at: http://GordonWAYNEwatts.com/UPDATED_KEY_NewsArticles_HigherEd_WATTS.pdf

[14] The legendary “Million signature” petition by national student debt expert, Alan M. Collinge,

LINK: <https://www.Change.org/p/president-trump-cancel-student-loans-now>

[15] Senator Rick Scott: “When I went to college in the 70’s, tuition was as low as \$200 a semester, with no fees that I can remember.” (Press Release dated Tue. 10 Sept. 2019: <https://www.RickScott.Senate.gov/sen-rick-scott-announces-proposals-lower-cost-higher-education>) Assuming this was January of 1975, this would be equivalent to \$987.89 per semester in an October 2019 (source: <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=200&year1=197501&year2=201910>) And, WestEgg's calculator gives a similar conversion: “What cost \$200 in 1975 would cost \$943.89 in 2018.” (source: <https://westegg.com/inflation/infl.cgi>) In fact, PolitiFact rated as “Mostly True” the claim that college was once “free” in the United States: <https://www.PolitiFact.com/florida/statements/2016/feb/09/bernie-s/was-college-once-free-united-states-and-it-oversea/>

[16] A 2014 article in the NYTimes claims that: “A decade ago, there was only about \$300 billion in such loans outstanding, and even now the \$1.1 trillion in student loan debt is dwarfed by mortgage debt. But people who borrow money to pay for their education can’t simply walk away without paying, unlike with mortgages, car loans or credit cards; there is no equivalent of foreclosure, and student loan debts aren’t cleared by bankruptcy.” Source: “How Student Debt May Be Stunting the Economy,” by Neil Irwin, The New York Times, May 14, 2014, LINK: <https://www.NYTimes.com/2014/05/15/upshot/the-role-of-student-debt-in-stunting-the-recovery.html>

Archive-1: <http://Archive.vn/li1BW>

Archive-2: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200112041626/https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/15/upshot/the-role-of-student-debt-in-stunting-the-recovery.html>

If there were only \$300 billion in student loans in 2004 (a decade before the 2014 article), and we're approaching almost \$2 Trillion now, then we see that we've added \$1.7 Trillion to U.S. Debt (we currently are the sole lenders of all student loans) in a space of sixteen (16) years: That's \$106,250,000,000.00, or more than \$100 Billion per year, or about \$290,896,646.13 every single day! (That does not even count the interest, which is not negligible!) Lawmakers' refusal to grant student loan bankruptcy (a Free Market check on excessive lending—as it would scare the DOE into stopping irresponsible lending), is directly and immediately responsible for adding almost 300 MILLION dollars to the national debt EVERY SINGLE DAY—and this WILL crash the dollar is left unchecked.

[17] QUOTE: “Free press doctrine lionized the press as the prime defender of public liberty in its role as a bulwark against governmental tyranny. Open press doctrine, on the other hand, stressed the individual right of every man to air his sentiments for all to consider, regardless of his political perspective or the consequences for the people's liberty.” LINK: <https://www.LawCourts.org/LPBR/reviews/martinrowt.htm>

Source: ISSN 1062-7421, Vol. 12 No. 2 (February 2002) pp. 79-83; THE FOUNDING OF AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC PRESS LIBERTY, 1640-1800 by Robert W. T. Martin. New York: New York University Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-8147-5655-7; Reviewed by Rick A. Swanson, Department of Political Science, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

[18] “Bankruptcy Could Help Millions Struggling Under Student Debt: In 2005, Congress took this one possible life raft away. Why?,” by Jon Basil Utley, publisher of The American Conservative, published in The American Conservative, January 23, 2020, LINK: <https://www.TheAmericanConservative.com/articles/bankruptcy-could-help-millions-struggling-under-student-debt> REVIEW: <http://RationalReview.news-digests.com/archives/8408> AUTHOR PROFILE: <https://MuckRack.com/jon-basil-utley>

Their byline states: “The American Conservative exists to advance a Main Street conservatism. We cherish local community, the liberties bequeathed us by the Founders, the civilizational foundations of faith and family, and—we are not ashamed to use the word—peace.”

“Fair Use” Archive-1: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200226234951/https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/bankruptcy-could-help-millions-struggling-under-student-debt>

“Fair Use” Archive-2: https://GordonWatts.com/TheAmericanConservative-on-Student-Debt_PDF.pdf

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Gordon Wayne Watts, editor-in-chief, *The Register*

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AS, United Electronics Institute

2046 Pleasant Acre Drive, Plant City, FL 33801-2113

Home: (863) 687-6141 ; Cell: (863) 688-9880

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"First, they [Nazis] came for the Jews. I was silent. I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Communists. I was silent. I was not a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists. I was silent. I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me. There was no one left to speak for me." (Martin Niemöller, given credit for a quotation in *The Harper Religious and Inspirational Quotation Companion*, ed. Margaret Pepper (New York: Harper & Row, 1989), 429 -as cited on page 44, note 17, of *Religious Cleansing in the American Republic*, by Keith A. Fournier, Copyright 1993, by Liberty, Life, and Family Publications.

Some versions have Mr. Niemöller saying: "Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up, because I was a Protestant"; other versions have him saying that they came for Socialists, Industrialists, schools, the press, and/or the Church; however, it's certain he DID say SOMETHING like this. Actually, they may not have come for the Jews first, as it's more likely they came for the prisoners, mentally handicapped, & other so-called "inferiors" first -as historians tell us -so they could get "practiced up"; however, they did come for them -due to the silence of their neighbors -and due in part to their own silence. So: "Speak up now or forever hold your peace!"-GWW

2 attachments



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