

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Trump Permit for Alberta-to-Alaska Railroad Points to Bering Strait Crossing, and World Land-Bridge

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—*South China Morning Post* on Oct. 4 covered the great potential significance of President Donald Trump's having then just signed a permit for U.S. border crossing of the Alberta-to-Alaska Railroad—projected to be built between now and the middle of this decade—in an article entitled, "[Bering Strait Tunnel: Pipe Dream or Game-Changer for](#)

U.S.-Russia-China Ties?” *EIR* reported the same significance in a brief report at the time. This week, *EIR*’s weekly for the issue dated Oct. 31, will publish a fuller treatment in an article, “President Trump’s Border-Crossing-Permit for the Alaska-to-Alberta Railway: Will 2020 Be the Year Mankind Walks through the Door to the World Land-Bridge?” by Robert Hux and Marcia Merry Baker, on the prospects for the railroad, nicknamed “A2A.”

SCMP wrote, “When U.S. President Donald Trump bestowed his approval on a new \$22 billion, 2,400 km railway between the United States and Canada last month, it brought a glimmer of hope to an even bigger and bolder infrastructure project. The idea of joining up the far east of Russia with the far north of the U.S.—either by tunnel or bridge—has been tantalizing engineers, entrepreneurs and downright dreamers since the end of the 19th century.... The Trump-approved Alaska to Alberta, or A2A, rail project is being hailed as an important link in the chain across the apex of the Pacific Rim, one that could eventually spawn a vast transport network connecting Asia directly with the Americas, through the strait.” It quoted Fyodor Soloviev, founder of the InterBering firm based in Anchorage, “The [Bering Strait Tunnel] project’s a long way from breaking ground, but the announcement about A2A is a great step forward.”

Just as important, “While the link would augment China’s Belt and Road global infrastructure initiative, prompting concerns from the U.S.—which is involved in a trade battle with China and views the Belt and Road Initiative as a leveraged power play—its potential long-term benefits would most likely be seen by all concerned parties as an eventual boon.” Again, Dr. Soloviev: “The other big benefit would be the aspect of international cooperation and future dependence of the participating countries, that is the U.S., Canada, Russia, and China.”

And President Trump’s pushing off an Alberta-to-Alaska railroad into the north wind is, in fact, a worldwide step, because the potential “A2A” is one of the launchers for what Lyndon and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, decades ago, gave the name of World Land-Bridge—connectivity of the freight

transport systems of Eurasia and Africa with that of the Americas, and possibility of continuous passenger travel across Eurasia and down through the Americas to Tierra del Fuego. A tremendous leap in the physical economic development of the “inland” regions of the continents; the replacement of slow ocean shipping with rapid rail travel for container goods; stimulation of economic development in high-speed rail corridors, and in and across river basins, TVA-style.

Gradually some credit instruments for these transformative projects have been stood up during the Trump term: the Export Import Bank of the United States re-established on a broader and longer footing, the new International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) now permitted to help finance nuclear power projects of all kinds. But these remain small credit channels compared to the immediate need for increased food production and transport against COVID-triggered famine and for new hospitals and clinics across developing countries, let alone the kind of physical economic development promised by LaRouche’s World Land-Bridge.

So his broad, “Hamiltonian” (or “Leibnizian”) economic policies must be used. And this burst of development, which will reawaken American manufacturing and technological progress, can’t be done without a joint effort by the major technological powers. It will require a new international credit system from the United States, China, Russia, India and other powers—keeping out London’s financial empire. City of London elites and co-thinkers have opposed all signs of the World Land-Bridge since the LaRouche’s first put it forward more than 30 years ago.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Who May Be Fired Right After Trump Victory

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—Axios news service reported from sources yesterday that if President Donald Trump wins the Nov. 3 election, he will immediately fire FBI Director Christopher Wray, replace CIA Director Gina Haspel, and also likely Defense Secretary Mark Esper. Axios identifies its sources as

two people who have discussed these personnel matters with the President. Axios conveys the assessment that these officials would have been fired much sooner, but for the complications of acting before the Nov. 3 election.

The list of people to be replaced may be much longer, Axios said, expressing concern that President Trump signed an executive order last week that “set off alarm bells” for people fearing a means to politicize the civil service (i.e., have the executive run the administration); Axios linked to an attack on the EO by *Government Executive*, published by Government Executive Media Group, that also puts out Defense One, which on Aug. 24 published an open letter by two retired Colonels to Gen. Mark Milley, demanding he remove Trump from the White House on Jan. 21, if Trump refuses to leave! A Trump Administration official said that order “is a really big deal” that would make it easier for Presidents to get rid of career government officials, and raises the possibility of big shake-ups in other departments. The possible departure of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is raised, but with nowhere near the urgency of getting rid of Wray and Haspel. Trump is reported to be particularly angry with Haspel for opposing the declassification of documents that would help the Justice Department’s long-awaited Durham report. And Wray, whose firing had first been mooted by the Daily Beast, refused to both launch an investigation into Hunter Biden’s foreign business connections, and to fire more FBI officials whom Trump believes abused power to investigate his campaign’s alleged ties to Russia.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper may be on the list, Axios said, because he opposed Trump’s idea of sending active-duty military into the streets to deal with violent protests in front of the White House May 29.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NASA’s SOFIA Found Water in the Sunlit Region of the Moon!

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has identified water molecules in the sunlit region of the Moon, the space agency announced today, during a [NASA media](#)

[teleconference](#), spreading the news: “This new discovery contributes to NASA’s efforts to learn about the Moon in support of deep space exploration.”

The remarkable discovery comes just in time, as we look forward to The Trump Administration’s Artemis mission goal to land the first woman and the next man on the Moon by 2024. The Artemis intention is to learn how to live and work on the Moon for long-term exploration, and to prepare for launching humans to Mars. As the teleconference explained, having a water source is critical for deep space exploration, for oxygen, drinking, and fuel.

For years research has known of water ice in the shadowed craters of the Moon. The new discovery by SOFIA’s airborne observatory, flying at altitudes of up to 45,000 feet and using its Faint Object Infrared Camera (FORCAST), identified that water exists in the sunlit surfaces of the Moon in the Clavius Crater by detecting a specific wavelength of 6.1 microns, unique to water molecules. It was the first time SOFIA observed the Moon. The sources of these water molecules identified in the sunlit surface of the Moon are said to be solar winds or micrometeorites that could transfer water to the Moon through high temperature impacts. “This discovery challenges our understanding of the lunar surface and raises intriguing questions about the resources relevant for deep space exploration,” said Paul Hertz, Astrophysics division director at NASA Headquarters. Casey Honniball, a postdoctoral fellow at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, lead author of the research published Oct. 26 in *Nature Astronomy* that, “without a thick atmosphere, water on the sunlit lunar surface should just be lost in space. Yet somehow we’re seeing it. Something is generating the water, and something must be trapping it there.”

There are many questions that have to be answered about the water-ice that has been identified on the Moon. How stable is it? Will it be replenished or lost for good? How much is there? How is the water created? How is it stored? In order to collect and study it we will have to get down to the lunar surface. SOFIA followup flights will add to the work of future Moon missions, such as NASA’s Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration

Rover (VIPER), to create the first water resource maps of the Moon for future human space exploration.

Chinese Nuclear Reactor Type Ready for Commercial Use

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—Unit 5 at the Fuqing nuclear power plant in China's Fujian province attained a sustained chain reaction for the first time on Oct. 21, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) has announced, reported *World Nuclear News* on Oct. 22. The unit—the first of two demonstration Hualong One reactors at the site—is scheduled to begin commercial operation by the end of this year, with Unit 6 following by the end of next year. Unit 5 is the world's first Hualong One reactor, a genuine Chinese development, to be commissioned. Construction of Fuqing Units 5 and 6 began in December 2015.

Construction of two demonstration Hualong One (HPR1000) units is also underway at China General Nuclear's Fangchenggang plant in the Guangxi Autonomous Region. Those units are expected to start up in 2022. CNNC has also started construction of two Hualong units at the Zhangzhou plant in Fujian province, plus the first of two units at Taipingling in Guangdong.

The reactor type is also being exported: Two HPR1000 units are under construction at Pakistan's Karachi nuclear power plant. Construction began on Karachi unit 2 in 2015 and unit 3 in 2016; the units are planned to enter commercial operation in 2021 and 2022.

Nuclear Propulsion Concept Aims To Get Humans to Mars in Three Months

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—The *New Atlas* website reported Oct. 25 a “new nuclear engine concept” of the nuclear thermal propulsion (NTP) type, developed by Ultra Safe Nuclear Technologies based in Seattle, “and delivered it to NASA.” *New Atlas* wrote, “The company claims that this fuel is much more rugged than conventional nuclear fuels and can operate at high temperatures. This produces safer reactor designs and a high thrust and specific impulse that could previously only be obtained with highly-

enriched uranium.... It is hoped the new concept could lead to nuclear engines that reduce deep space mission times drastically, with a crewed mission to Mars arriving in as little as three months.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

More on Digital Currency Masters—the Ex-Husband

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—*Forbes* on Oct. 24 published an interview conducted by two reporters with Daniel Masters, former global head of energy trading at JP Morgan and now a go-to “pioneer” of block-chain and digital currencies for “traditional” bankers and central bankers. He is now CEO of Coinshares, Inc. It is clear from the interview that, from the standpoint of digital currency traders and planners like Masters, “traditional” banking means investment banking, and emphatically not commercial banking, which is going to cease to exist in his near-future view.

“The most interesting aspect of CBDCs [central bank digital currencies] is the impact they will have on commercial banks and the financial system as a whole,” said Masters. “Today, central banks issue currency to a slew of commercial banks like Chase and Bank of America. These banks do two things—create products and services such as mortgages, and deal with the end users. I think we are going into a new paradigm where central banks issue CBDCs, commercial banks cease to exist, and the service layer is filled by crazy new emerging companies like Compound Finance, Uniswap, SushiSwap, and people that are really getting distributed, decentralized finance done today.”

And why is it necessary to do away with commercial banking and enter a completely post-Hamiltonian world governed by giant central banks’ digital currencies? Masters explains: “There are some very compelling reasons for central banks to issue their own digital currencies.... Most importantly, if you take physical cash out of the system, you can enforce negative interest rates.” CBDCs are needed, then, to “enforce” the most economically, socially and demographically destructive practice in the history of banking.

Masters says many other things, most of them reflecting the kind of arrogant quirks not needed quoting here. Not mentioned, but of note: Daniel Masters was formerly married to Blythe Masters when he was head of global energy trading and she of global commodities trading at JPMorgan. Blythe Masters was documented in the Oct. 4 issue of *EIR Daily Alert* (“Plan for Fed’s Digital Currency To Replace Commercial Banks”), to be the supposed inventor of credit default swaps and the top bankster with the worst record of serial financial crimes in the 21st century. But being a senior Morgan banker, she was able to leave the big fines for her conduct to the shareholders; the arrests for her policies to her commodity trader underlings; and the criminal referral by Sen. Carl Levin in 2011, involving her and Goldman Sachs executives for securities fraud, to the tender mercies of Obama Attorney General Eric Holder, who took no action. And Blythe Masters, too, has now emerged as a leader in the field of creation of “digital finance” companies. As Daniel Masters claims in the *Forbes* interview, these companies, essentially digital investment banks, which he and his ex-wife are so involved in creating, will be the “intermediaries” between central banks’ digital currencies and economic investments, in a world where commercial banks no longer exist and interest rates are permanently zero or below.

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

U.S. Farm Leader Argues To Mobilize Food Delivery To Fight Starvation in Africa

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—Mount Vernon, South Dakota cattle rancher, well-known LaRouche organizer who addressed the Sept. 5-6 Schiller Institute conference, and former Congressional candidate Ron Wiczorek wrote the following letter to the *Mitchell Republic*, published on Oct. 24:

I make this urgent appeal as an American farmer on behalf of all those in Africa who are now starving or who will soon face starvation.

Thanks to a combination of deliberately enforced underdevelopment by the neocolonial British Empire, acting through its financial power in the City of London and Wall Street that is now intersecting a global pandemic, a locust plague and other natural disasters—all affecting food production on the African continent—scores of millions are already starving, while millions more will starve unless food is made available to them right away.

Relief agencies and charitable organizations have sounded alarm bells and appealed for money, but given the lack of infrastructure on the continent and the fact that much of this starvation is occurring in isolated rural areas, the quantities of food and the scope of distribution that must take place is well beyond the means of local governments and those relief agencies.

I appeal directly to President Donald Trump.

Take up this challenge. You can do this. Help America's farmers by giving them the opportunity to do good. Pay us parity prices for our meats and grains and fruits and vegetables that we have produced beyond the needs of the domestic market, so that we may survive to continue producing. Deploy the vast resources of the U.S. military to take this food directly to those in need and so save their lives. Do this, in the spirit of your wife, the gracious First Lady Melania, who pledged to help Africa, especially its children, when she visited the continent in October 2018. By emergency executive action, take whatever steps are necessary to make this happen, before the election. It will secure your victory.

Let our allies and adversaries alike join us in this mission of mercy, welcome them, summit with their leaders to coordinate bringing all African nations up to modern infrastructural and industrial standards. America can save these lives. We did it once before, when we got food to starving Europeans in 1945: the CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) program.

Urgent Federal Help Needed for U.S. Hospitals in Midwest and West, Overtaxed by COVID-19 Surge

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—Under the recent surge of COVID-19 cases, hospital systems in some Midwestern and Western states are overtaxed, and scrambling for contingency measures. In Utah, for example, rationing of care may go into effect in the next two weeks. Other locations, from El Paso, Texas, to Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, are at or beyond capacity. Where available, field hospitals, built months ago by the Army Corps of Engineers, have been activated. More Army Corps help is now called for, along with a resumption of embedding temporary military staff into existing hospitals, to relieve the terrible strain on local workers. Some mayors and governors have called on the Department of Health and Human Services for this kind of help; and the National Guard is active. Utah and Texas are indicative examples.

Utah: Gov. Gary Herbert was briefed Oct. 22 by Greg Bell, head of the Utah Hospital Association, that rationing of hospital treatment will start in a week or two, unless intervention is made. The *Salt Lake Tribune* summarized yesterday, “Under the criteria, which would require Herbert’s approval, patients who are getting worse despite receiving intensive care would be moved out first. In the event that two patients’ conditions are equal, the young get priority over the old, since older patients are more likely to die” (“[Utah’s Hospitals Prepare to Ration Care as a Record Number of Coronavirus Patients Flood Their ICUs](#)”). The University of Utah Health System opened an overflow ICU unit two weeks ago. It has been staffed only by overtime from the existing workforce, and that is breaking down. The National Guard at the Mountain America Expo Center is to build surge facilities, but medical personnel are lacking to staff it.

Texas: El Paso hit full use of intensive care capacity on Oct. 24. With places around the state under varying degrees of stress, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that a new medical facility will be put up at the El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Center, by the state Department of Emergency Management. The makeshift hospital will start at 50 beds, and can be expanded to 100 beds. On Oct. 25, Abbott called HHS to see if the

Department of Defense facility in El Paso can be repurposed to help the community. The state wants to shift non-COVID-19 patients into the William Beaumont Army Medical Center, to free up community hospital space for the virus cases. Last week, Abbott sent 75 state health workers to help in El Paso, but more are needed.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Putin, at Valdai Club, Insists There Must Be Limits on Arms Race

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—During his address to the closing plenary of the annual conference of the Valdai International Discussion Club, on “The Lessons of the Pandemic and the New Agenda: How to Turn the World Crisis Into an Opportunity for the World,” on Oct. 22, Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) answered a question on whether he thinks arms control as it has been practiced since the 1960s has a future, given the uncertain status of New START and earlier U.S. withdrawals from arms control treaties. “I think that the world will have no future unless limits are put on the arms race,” he said at the outset. After giving a thumbnail sketch of the U.S. withdrawals from the ABM and INF Treaties, and stating that the U.S. was “honest” in the first case, but made “excuses” of alleged Russian violations in the second, Putin highlighted the distrust that now exists between Washington and Moscow on these matters. Then he moved on to the current situation with New START, or START-3 as the Russians call it.

“Now, START-3. We took account of all the problems when we were negotiating these issues,” Putin continued. “Only one thing was left out. It is what Russia acquired in response to the United States withdrawing from the ABM Treaty. Precisely in response to the withdrawal,” he said, referring to Russia’s new generation of strategic weapons. “Indeed, neither the United States nor other countries have access to such weapons, although they are working on it, and someday they will have them as well. They are telling us, ‘You have it, we do not, so we must take this into account.’ Well, we do not mind, let us take it into account—both regarding the number of carriers and the number of warheads. We do not mind.”

Putin referred to his proposal of last week, to extend New START for one year without preconditions while a new agreement is negotiated. But, he said, “the trick is that we have had hardly any constructive discussions about this so far. Our partners, to put it bluntly, shied away from a direct and substantive professional discussion. The treaty will expire in February 2021, and that is all we have left now.”

In response to a follow-up question, Putin stressed that if the United States is determined to let New START expire, there’s nothing that Russia can do about it, but in any case, Russian security will not be affected. Secondly, he stressed, “Russia is not against this but just do not shift on us the responsibility of making this treaty multilateral.” If the Chinese don’t want to get involved that is their sovereign right.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Chileans Vote To Overturn 1980 Pinochet Constitution, Sparking National Jubilation

Oct. 26 (EIRNS)—Culminating a process of social protest which began in October 2019, a majority of Chileans, in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, went to the polls yesterday to vote in a national plebiscite to do away with the 1980 constitution imposed on the country by fascist dictator Augusto Pinochet. With 99% of the votes counted, 78.3%, or 5.9 million people, voted to approve the writing of an entirely new constitution, while 21.7%, or 1.6 million, voted to reject this option. A proposal to create a constitutional convention responsible for writing a new constitution, whose members would be elected, also passed by a large margin. There are 14.8 million registered voters in Chile.

The results of the plebiscite sparked enormous jubilation throughout the country, as citizens thronged to the main plazas in several cities, and especially to Santiago’s Plaza Italia. It has been the site of the mass demonstrations that began a year ago when Chileans revolted against 40 years of a free-market system—misnamed the Chilean “economic miracle”—devised by the University of Chicago. It was Pinochet’s

constitution, written by fascist ideologue Jaime Guzman—a devoted follower of Hitler’s “Crown Jurist” Carl Schmitt—which provided the legal underpinnings for that perverse system and deprived Chileans of their economic and political rights. The privatization of the pension system, was a centerpiece of this so-called “miracle.”

Despite ordering harsh repression, Chile’s right-wing multimillionaire President Sebastián Piñera failed to squelch the social protest of the past year. Yesterday, he hailed the plebiscite as evidence of Chile’s “democratic” tradition. Friends of Chile in neighboring countries—Argentina, Bolivia, Peru—hailed the results as historic.

- Watch the [**Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger**](#) on Tuesday, October 27: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley’s briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).