

California Drought Update

For May 26, 2016
by Patrick Ruckert

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A Note To Readers

I'll call this week's issue of this report a "Special Issue-- How Great Infrastructure Projects Define the Future." This topic came to my mind at the conference I attended last week (see the May 19 issue-- <http://amatterofmind.org/ca-drought-pdf/20160519%20California%20Drought%20Update.pdf>). One of the speakers said, that this generation of water managers, for the first time in California history, will leave a system for the next generation that is more dysfunctional than when we inherited it. As he said that, one could almost feel with him the pain and despair he was expressing.

That is not the way it used to be.

President John Kennedy, for example, presented his vision of how those responsible for the nation should see their role, speaking at the inauguration of a water project in Pueblo, Colorado on August 17, 1962. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5bSHypn9wQ>

"Every Member of Congress, everyone in the executive branch from the President on, in the field of national resources, has to plan during their period of administration or office for the next generation, because no project that we plan today will be beneficial to us. Anything we begin today, is for those who come after us. And just as those who began something years ago make it possible for us to be here, I hope we'll fulfill our responsibility to the next generation that's going to follow us."

One year earlier, on May 25, 1961, President Kennedy announced before a special joint session of Congress the dramatic and ambitious goal of sending an American safely to the Moon and back to Earth before the end of the decade. <http://history.nasa.gov/moondec.html>

That President set the nation on a mission, one in which great water projects were an integral part; a science-driven mission, which great technological progress would naturally be accompanied by increased industrialization, infrastructure development, and a population that focused on educating the next generation to be the scientists and engineers required to do the job.

But, merely returning to the way we used to be is inadequate. In fact, each generation must discover and accomplish that which has never been done before. Lyndon LaRouche expressed it this way in a May 23 discussion with the LaRouche PAC Policy Committee:

What mankind requires, as a human population, is a type of population, which actually creates a new

discovery of a higher level of mankind's intellectual capabilities. If you are like your parents, and that's all you are, you're a failure. If you could be something better than your father, and parents generally, have been able to do, that is what you're looking for.

You're saying that if you are human, what's the difference between you and a monkey? And that's a pretty brutal way of putting it, but that's a fact, because most people in schools today treat people the way monkeys treat monkeys. That's a fact. The point is, can mankind, as a species, an individual person of a species; can that person, or persons of that like, can they see something, that the older generation does not recognize? Or fails to recognize?

If mankind is only doing what they were doing before, that's not a good mark. That's a mark of wasted time. What's good is to have a child, who is able to see, and make and discover, things that their parents have not been able to discover; original developments, original discoveries, discoveries by children, despite their parents! And that is the standard for civilization. The other views are not correct.

<https://larouchepac.com/20160523/lpac-policy-committee-show-may-23-2016>

The first item below is an announcement of and an invitation to attend an important seminar in San Francisco on June 8. I hope you will attend. Let me know and I will register you for it. My number is 818 272 6884. Or, you can email me at patruckert@hotmail.com. “Will the U.S. Join the New Silk Road?” is not only a question of working with China and Russia on a global and U.S. infrastructure-driven real economic development project(s), but, will determine if our world descends into World War III or not. Our speakers will include former U.S. Senator Mike Gravel; one of the foremost hydraulic engineers in the country; the LaRouches; and a high level speaker from Russia. Again, I hope you can attend.

As for developments this week, now half-way through the fifth year of drought, surprisingly, things are a little quiet. The U.S. Drought Monitor and the Reservoir graph are followed by some other drought related items.

The concluding section is the first of a series on great water projects. This week we will highlight, once again from the Kennedy era, the ***North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA)***. My title for this week's report, “How Great Infrastructure Projects Define the Future,” perhaps should include this sub-title: “Or, if not undertaken and completed, wreck that future.”

Had the NAWAPA project been followed through with, then it would have been completed in the 1990s, and drought or no drought, California would never have been in a water crisis off and on for the past two decades.

Finally, a word on the elections. A nation that allowed Wall Street to turn the economy into a gambling casino, shutting down industry, not investing in infrastructure, sponsoring the environmentalist insanity, and generally destroying the future of the American people, has created the anger that characterizes this year's election, and given us candidates that even 20 years ago would have been laughed off the electoral stage. Anger is the proper response to what has been done to the nation, especially by the Bush and Obama administrations. But one must know what is the right target for that anger. And, secondly, one must know how to solve the problem.

Here is what every candidate must be challenged to endorse and pledge to enact. If they will not, then they are not someone the American people can endorse because they are nothing more than a

distraction designed to breed more chaos and turning our nation into a fascist police state characterized by a population succumbing to fear

The U.S. Joins the New Silk Road

<https://larouchepac.com/sites/default/files/US%20Joins%20Silk%20Road-web.pdf>



Will the U.S. Join The New Silk Road?

A Choice of Global Scientific Development or Nuclear World War



Strategic Seminar

Wednesday June 8, 2016

9am to 4pm

**4 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111
(NE Corner of Drumm St and Sacramento)**

- **2nd Floor of the retail area above Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf Cafe**
- **Walk one floor up the spiral walk way or one flight up the escalator**

BART: Embarcadero Station, walk 1 block north on Drumm St. to location

PARKING: Golden Gate Garage on Clay and Front St.

For more information: 415-377-4737 or michael.g.steger@gmail.com

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Drought Monitor and Reservoirs

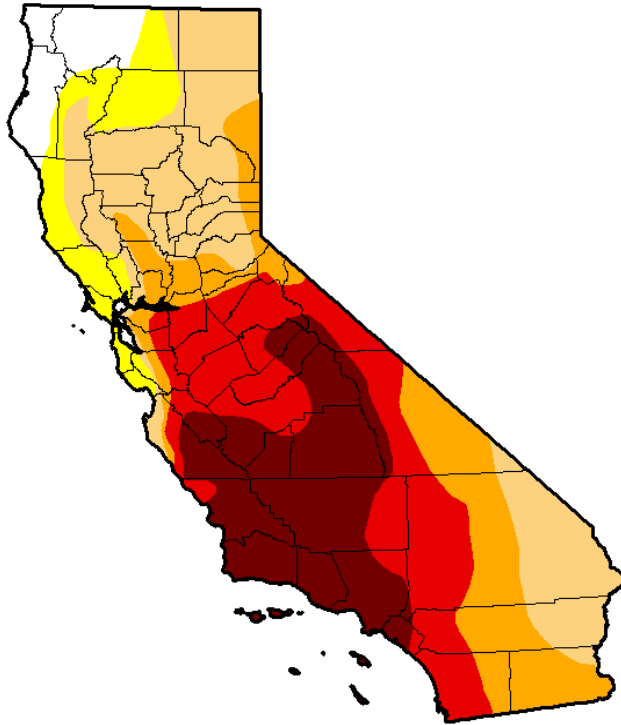
There is no comment required this week, so you can just look at the pictures. Not much of a change.

U.S. Drought Monitor California

May 24, 2016

(Released Thursday, May, 26, 2016)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.50	94.50	86.39	61.00	42.99	21.04
Last Week <i>5/17/2016</i>	5.50	94.50	86.39	63.57	42.99	21.04
3 Months Ago <i>2/23/2016</i>	0.43	99.57	94.38	81.82	60.86	38.48
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/29/2015</i>	0.00	100.00	97.33	87.55	69.07	44.84
Start of Water Year <i>9/29/2015</i>	0.14	99.86	97.33	92.36	71.08	46.00
One Year Ago <i>5/26/2015</i>	0.14	99.86	98.71	93.91	66.60	46.73

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

David Simeral

Western Regional Climate Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Whoops! Now Some Are Recognizing That the Drought Has Not Gone Away

While the euphoria about the full northern reservoirs still is maintaining its grip, some are beginning to recognize that the fat lady has not really done her thing.

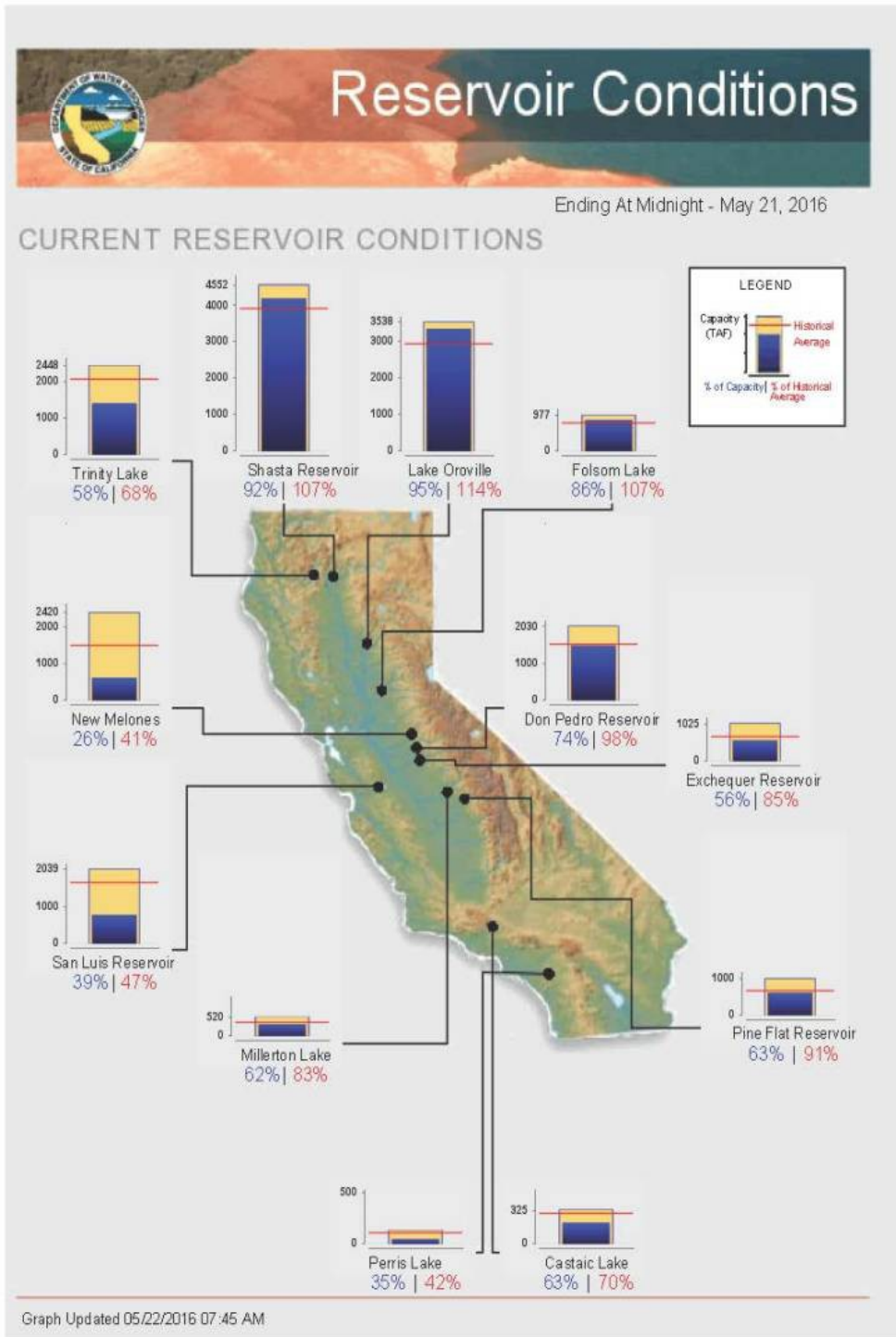
Watereducation.org has an appropriate headline on May 25 in an article by Susan Lauer, “Northern Reservoirs Brimming Early but Warm Weather Taking its Toll in the South.” Some excerpts follow. <http://www.watereducation.org/blog-post/northern-reservoirs-brimming-early-warm-weather-taking-its-toll-south>

Photos of brimming lakes and reservoirs, flowing rivers and raging waterfalls have been splashed across news headlines and in social media. It’s a welcome change from last year when California was entering its fifth year of drought.

Yet, the reservoirs are filling because the snow is melting early, not necessarily because the state has more water that fell as snow or rain this winter.

While snowpack measurements equaled a “normal” year for the northern part of the state, the powerful El Niño fueled warmer springtime temperatures this year that brought little precipitation to California’s southern reaches.

In fact, April was the warmest on record. It was the seventh month in a row that global temperatures set a new record high, according to NASA data.



The *Sacramento Bee* joins in with a May 21 Editorial Board statement, “California’s ‘historic’ drought isn’t history just yet.” They warn that it is too soon to relax conservation measures while “more than 70 percent of the state remains in ‘severe,’ ‘extreme’ or ‘exceptional’ drought.” Some excerpts: <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article78998652.html>

Remember that “historic” drought? The one that erased snow from the Sierra and was turning the Central Valley into a dusty bowl?

Remember how it was supposed to be permanent? How all Californians need to forever change the wasteful ways we use water because most of the state is, in fact, a desert?

We remember. We’re not sure about the State Water Resources Control Board and some local water agencies, though.

Dazzled by winter precipitation that, while wetter than before, failed to measure up to even normal snowpack, the board this week [voted to lift a statewide conservation mandate](#) that had been in effect since last summer.

No longer will urban water districts be required to ensure their customers cut usage by an average of 25 percent over 2013 levels. Instead, the districts will be allowed to “self-certify” their conservation targets based on assessments of their water supplies and anticipated demand over the next three years.

Within hours of the board’s decision, [several of the state’s more than 400 water districts started scrapping conservation efforts altogether](#). Many, including districts in the Sacramento region, said they will stop requiring customers to save water – at all.

After four years of drought, El Niño brought more rain and snow to Sacramento and other parts of Northern California than in any winter in recent years. Southern California wasn’t so lucky.

That’s why experts warn that more than 70 percent of the state remains in “severe,” “extreme” or “exceptional” drought.

Instead, *sfgate.com* warns, it is going to get worse. The article, “Drought hangs tough as feds project dry winter in California,” by Kurtis Alexander on May 19 is excerpted below. <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Drought-hangs-tough-as-feds-project-dry-winter-in-7751183.php>

The end of the historic California drought appears increasingly unlikely, at least anytime soon, with new long-range forecasts hinting at a warm, dry winter for much of the state.

The monthly outlook released Thursday by the [U.S. Climate Prediction Center](#) cites a 33 percent chance that significantly below-average precipitation will arrive in San Francisco and points south between December and February.

A primary factor behind the temperate forecast is the emerging La Niña. The climate pattern — the opposite of El Niño — is characterized by cool waters in the equatorial Pacific, which can lead to less rain in much of California, particularly in the south, though the trend is by no means definite.

“The typical La Niña impacts suggest drier-than-normal conditions across the southern tier of the U.S.,” said [Stephen Baxter](#), a meteorologist at the Climate Prediction Center.

According to the latest federal forecast, La Niña has a 75 percent chance of developing by fall or winter.

Even the Russians agree that some in California are living in a dream world. Here is just the headline from the article from *Sputniknews.com*. <http://sputniknews.com/us/20160519/1039931128/california-suspends-drought-water-restrictions.html>

Drought Unquenched, California Halts Water Restrictions Anyway-- California, suffering from its worst drought in recorded history, has decided to suspend its mandatory water restrictions, despite El Niño storms not providing as much water as meteorologists predicted.

More on Lake Mead

California is entitled to 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water each year. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Imperial Valley and San Diego are the main users of this water. Thus, as a vital source of water for Southern California, Lake Mead's water level, now at a record low of 37 percent of capacity, is of intense concern. Two articles are excerpted below, and one other is linked.

Lake Mead Water Levels Hit Historic Lows

May 20

By Ryan Phillips

weather.com

<https://weather.com/news/news/lake-mead-water-drought-reservoir>

Lake Mead's water level reached a record low this week and is expected to drop further moving into 2016, as the drought stricken region shows no immediate signs of recovery.

The elevation for the man-made reservoir [was measured at 1,074 feet](#) on Wednesday, according to the Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region. Multiple reports have confirmed that the lake is at its lowest level since the completion of the Hoover Dam amid the Great Depression in 1936.

Lake Mead provides water for [approximately 20 million residents](#) in Arizona, California and Nevada, and is expected to drop by an additional 5 feet by the end of June, ABC News reports.

However, the Arizona Daily Star reported that the lake is expected to see a [boost back to 1,078 feet](#) by the end of 2016. The goal for officials is to avoid a formal water shortage, which will be declared if the lake is at 1,075 feet at the end of the year.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has [stated its plans](#) to have water pumped into the lake before the end of the year in order to reach a critical water-level mark. This would aid in avoiding cuts in water deliveries made to those in its service area.

Lake Mead hits new record low

May 18

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/water-environment/lake-mead-hits-new-record-low>

Colby Pellegrino, Colorado River programs manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, said the “silver lining of this cloud” is the cooperative work among water managers, regulators and policymakers across the river basin. She said some of those collaborations have already made a tangible difference at Lake Mead, where the water would be even lower than it is now without some of the banking agreements and conservation efforts agreed upon by the states.

The voluntary reductions being discussed are designed to stave off deeper, mandatory cuts for Arizona and Nevada if the lake sinks below levels outlined in a 2007 agreement.

Nevada would leave 8,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead each year under the first round of voluntary cuts, while Arizona would give up 192,000 of its 2.8 million acre-foot Colorado River allocation to benefit the reservoir.

One acre-foot of water is enough to supply two average Las Vegas Valley homes for just over a year.

The annual reductions would increase to 10,000 acre-feet for Nevada and 240,000 acre-feet for Arizona should Lake Mead drop another 30 feet to 1,045 feet above sea level.

Elevation 1,045 is also where California would see its first voluntary cuts, which start at 200,000 acre-feet a year and increase by 50,000 with every additional 5-foot drop in Lake Mead. Under existing law, California is not required to give up any of its 4.4 million acre-foot river allocation, which is the largest among the seven states that share the Colorado.

One more article on Lake Mead, which has more detail, was published by the *Yuma Sun* on May 18. “Drought contingency plans discussed,” by Blake Herzog, can be found here:

http://www.yumasun.com/news/drought-contingency-plans-discussed/article_f804f3ce-1d59-11e6-a5ab-c311b688e4f6.html

How Great Infrastructure Projects Define the Future, Or, If Not Undertaken and Completed, Wreck That Future

The North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA)

I encourage the reader to read and watch the links included in this short report. Of note is the seven minute video of the California-Oregon Extension of the project to be found below the main report.

The following excerpts are from a report on the project published by LaRouche PAC:

NAWAPA: The Tennessee Valley Authority of the 21st Century

<http://archive.larouchepac.com/node/15375>

Originally planned in the 1950's and 1960's, the initial NAWAPA plan is a series of projects designed to take large amounts of fresh water from Alaska and the Canadian Yukon, divert it before its runoff into the Pacific Ocean, channel it through Canada, into the United States, and all the way to northern Mexico. This would be achieved by a series of dams, canals, tunnels, lakes, and pump lifts, guiding the water down the continent, allowing for the potential irrigation of an estimated 86,000 square miles, transforming the arid landscape along the way.

It would re-industrialize the nation, putting, immediately, seven million people to work at productive occupations at high wages. It will restore the nation to being once again the leading production center

for humanity. As a side benefit it will, once and for all, mean the disease of environmentalism has been eradicated.

The LaRouche PAC updated version of the original NAWAPA plan takes the core of the original 1960's design. We will elaborate the project by building high speed rail lines for both passenger and freight, new nuclear reactors, and even new cities. Along this route the irrigation and managed water flow will begin to transform the land area, including the climate and weather, as a case of mankind's conscious management of a significant region of the Biosphere, increasing the productivity of both mankind, and the Biosphere itself.

Here is a map of the greatest project ever conceived by man. The map shows the main routes of water transfer, beginning in Alaska and creating a single continental water management system.



Here is are some excerpt from the 99-page report published by LaRouche PAC in 2012:

NAWAPA XXI-- A LaRouchePAC Special Report

http://archive.larouchepac.com/files/20120403-nawapaxxi-forweb_0.pdf

In the Spring of 1964, a United States Senate Special Subcommittee on Western Water Development

was formed to evaluate a plan that newspapers in the U.S. and Canada were soon heralding as the most ambitious public works project in history: the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA), the brainchild of Donald McCord Baker and Hillman Hansen, two engineers working out of Ralph M. Parsons' engineering firm in California. Headed by Utah Senator Frank "Ted" Moss, the committee published a comprehensive report by October of that year, titled "A Summary of Water Resources Projects, Plans, and Studies Relating to The Western and Midwestern United States." The report found that if all the projects studied or authorized by Federal and non-Federal agencies were to be implemented, they would have amounted to 3,151 projects, storing 2.7 billion acre-feet; in comparison, the NAWAPA project would entail 369 separate projects, storing a total of 4.3 billion acre-feet, and, therefore, warranted a full engineering feasibility study.

Senator Moss continued to fight for the project all the way into the 1970s. Moss actively organized for joint action between the U.S. and Canada, and participated in several high-profile debates with Canadian officials on the project. Despite vocal opposition from some quarters, favorable opinions on NAWAPA from Canadian legislators reached as high as Prime Minister Lester Pearson, who stated publicly that water diversion from the Arctic could be "one of the most important developments in our history."

However, official government action on NAWAPA stalled, especially as the U.S. was sucked into heavy combat in Vietnam beginning in November 1965. This coincided with a retreat from the pro-development programs of the Kennedy era, including the beginning of massive cuts to NASA's budget, and a halt to new starts on dam projects. Therefore, while the Canadian government became increasingly favorable to the idea of NAWAPA in 1966-1967, the context surrounding NAWAPA was transforming; this new context became the determining factor in its outcome, regardless of any actions taken by its proponents.

Here are some of videos on the NAWAPA project:

Interactive NAWAPA Map -- Detailed Tours

<http://archive.larouchepac.com/node/15568>

This video uses Google Earth to allow the viewer to follow the entire project and all its structures from Alaska to Mexico.

Drought: The Time for NAWAPA has Come

March 3, 2014 •

<http://archive.larouchepac.com/node/30047>

This is a 10 minute summary tour of the project.

Oregon-California Extension of NAWAPA

<http://archive.larouchepac.com/node/22581>

May 4, 2012

The California-Oregon Extension of NAWAPA video is seven minutes long.

NAWAPA XXI – Feature

<https://larouchepac.com/20140727/nawapa-xxi-feature>

The animated tour of the **NAWAPA XXI** system, narrated by Michael Kirsch, explores the main routes of **NAWAPA XXI** from Alaska to Mexico.

NAWAPA XXI Animated Overview

<http://larouchepac.com/nawapaxxi/overview>

This is a shorter, fifteen minute video overview

The “Gig Economy”

To conclude this week's report, we have this item describing the economy most Americans now live in, rather than what could have been:

"Gig Economy" Turns Americans into Flotsam and Jetsam

May 23, 2016 (EIRNS)--A growing portion of the once-middle class in the United States survives as "independent entrepreneurs" otherwise dubbed "the gig economy," characterized by driving your car as an Uber taxi, renting your home or room via AirBnB, and the like.

Denunciations of this criminal insanity by Republican investigative journalist David Cay Johnson were featured by Alternet's Steven Rosenfeld on May 21. Johnston warned in a recent talk at San Francisco Public Press that the fact that "people are working without salary, benefits, and the stability to buy a house and raise a family," represents a systemic risk to the economy.

In a follow-up interview, Johnston said simply that "the gig economy is really about pushing down the costs of labor... When you pay people as employees, they get a regular paycheck. That means the employer takes more of the risk and the worker gets reliability. And that's a much better system, because most people can't live in a world of unreliability. How are you going to finance a mortgage if you don't have a reliable income?"