

EXCERPTS FROM LA TIMES LETTERS THAT GOT PUBLISHED –
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My ‘guess’ is that the letters were chosen because 1) they had a point that had not yet been made by other letter writers or 2) they had a snappy turn of phrase that attracted the editor’s attention. And, of course, I followed the guidelines faithfully. Here are some lines that might have made some letters appeal to the editor:

July 5, 2020 re Supreme Court ruling that not allowing a state government to subsidize religious education if it subsidizes secular schools would be ‘discrimination’: “ Under this Supreme Court, our constitutional right of freedom of religion can be compared to a man sitting in the chair of a bad barber – it is getting chopped at and not looking very good.”

April 15, 2020 re Trump’s denial of responsibility: “It is a basic principle of management – accountability cannot be separated from authority. If you are in charge of something, you are answerable for the results.”

August 27, 2019 re tariffs on Chinese imports. First I showed the math which revealed that in less than nine years the tariffs American consumers would pay would make up for the \$1 trillion tax giveaway to the wealthiest individuals and corporations. Then I wrote: “Think about this while you wonder how to put shoes on your kids’ growing feet ..”

April 14, 2018 re Speaker Ryan resigning: “Nice try, Speaker Ryan, but jumping ship is not going to keep your name out of the history books. Historians may debate whether you and your fellow Republicans were merely Trump’s enablers or his active collaborators.”

December 13, 2017 re Trump being an unwelcome presence at an opening ceremony for Mississippi’s new Civil Rights Museum: “... his ride into office was powered by his hatred of President Obama. He appears to be consumed by anger at the fact that he, a white man, is outclassed by Obama, a black man whose gentlemanly demeanor, intelligence and calm show Trump up at every turn.”

November 22, 2014 re Speaker Boehner’s accusation that President Obama’s actions would ‘poison the well’ on immigration legislation: “Now Obama has gone and done it! He has acted on immigration and poisoned Boehner’s well, just as [Boehner] said he would. Let’s face it: Obama was never going to get as much as a sip from that well. That’s the well with the big sign on it saying, ‘We

reserve the right to refuse service to anyone, especially you, Mr President.”

Sept 9, 2014 re the Tesla battery factory going to Nevada not California: “Before we start crying into our beer over not winning the Tesla factory, let’s reconsider the value of adding a polluting industry to our state, waiving our environmental laws and paying \$500 million to get 6,500 jobs. ...we really dodged a bullet.”

July 27, 2014 re organizing humanitarian refuge for children in Central America: “While we are making plans to organize humanitarian refuge for children in Central America who face gang violence, crime, poverty and corruption, can we think of any way to provide asylum to American children who are in the same boat? They are already living in the country to which much of the world looks for rescue.”

January 11, 2014 re Governor Christie’s denying involvement in Bridgegate, New Jersey’s blocking the George Washington Bridge to punish the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee who would not endorse him: “Christie may say the traffic tie-up was the action of rogue staff, but he must accept responsibility for presiding over a moral swamp in which such a vicious scheme would even be considered.”

August 31, 2013 re a story of Newport Beach residents fighting over yachts in contrast to my having seen on TV the degraded condition of the Lincoln Memorial steps behind speakers celebrating Martin Luther King’s iconic speech: “Nothing highlights so well the current situation in our country: public squalor as we starve our government amid private splendor, exemplified by those Newport Beach Residents who grapple with the ‘issue’ of what size megayachts will be allowed to dock there without disturbing their views.”

June 8, 2013 re teaching Nazi propoganda to 7th grade students to heighten ‘analytical thinking’: ...the ‘lesson’ in analytical thinking will be forgotten, and the hateful message will remain. If you don’t believe this, consider the right-wing propoganda that President Obama was not born in the United States. According to a CBS News poll in 2011, 1 in 4 Americans believe this fiction.”