

Extracts from the Elixir c5

Teaser 2, compiled and translated by Waldemar Janzen, November 2021



Note for All Non-Conspiracy Theorists

In times of a societal division, as we increasingly see it, with the year 2020 2021 as a new climax, it is necessary to know how this division came to be – the real origin of it. Oftentimes the reason for a division or a conflict is merely the result of a differing knowledge base between the parties involved. In that case, the only thing that is needed to help the mob to the left and the mob to the right reason one’s way back to peace is simply some enlightenment (=clarifying communication). As per most countries’ legal situation the people have reached the agreement that the duty to educate and inform towards such enlightenment lies within the responsibility of the media first and foremost. For this very reason the media is being financed by the citizens because the citizens want to stay sufficiently informed – some even extensively informed – about worldly matters of all sorts.

But what becomes of a people when *despite of*–or– *due to* the division of society the enlightenment by the media happens not extensively but in fact only one-sidedly? The two parties, that our society is currently dividing into consist of, on the one side, people who *do not suspect* conspiracies behind world events, and on the other side, people who *do suspect* conspiracies behind world events. If the media’s coverage is indeed only one-sided and both parties are already familiar with it, then looking at and listening to *the other side of things* is up to that party that is *not* yet familiar with the other side.

Since conspiracy theorists feel very misrepresented by the media at large (both mainstream and alternative) – for way too long already – and this misrepresentation is kept prevailed as everyone’s general knowledge, it naturally follows that a compilation of their *actual* opinions and findings is indispensable in order to straighten what has been crooked. Of course there have already been many such attempts in this regard, yet no such attempt has thus far been successful for global enlightenment, and so another attempt is needed if “enlightenment” continues to be society’s wish.

Mind you, if knowledge is your wish, you are expected the effort to actually *absorb* knowledge. So don’t get discouraged by the prospect of having “so much” to read. Some of you *asked* for the book of all books for world enlightenment – now you have it! Yet the reading part you will have to do on your own.

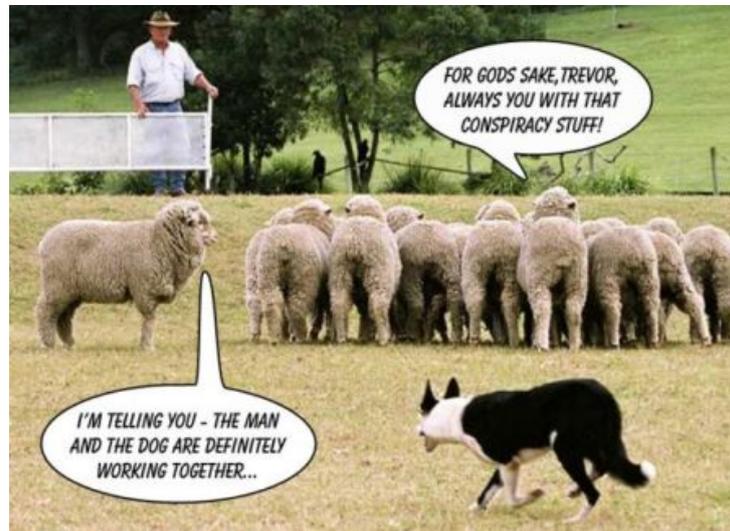
(Below, excerpts from the book.)

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28.) Astroturf and Manipulation of Media Messages

by *Sharyl Attkisson*
(TedTalk, February 2015)



Consider this fictitious example that's inspired by real life: say you're watching the news, and you see a story about a new study on the cholesterol-lowering drug called Cholextra. The study says Cholextra is so effective that doctors should consider prescribing it to adults and even children who don't yet have high cholesterol. Is it too good to be true? You're smart, you decide to do some of your own research. You do a Google search, you consult social media, Facebook, and Twitter. You look at Wikipedia, WebMD, a non-profit website, and you read the original study in a peer-reviewed published medical journal. It all confirms how effective Cholextra is. You do run across a few negative comments and a potential link to cancer, but you dismiss that, because medical experts call the cancer link a myth and say that those who think there is a link there are quacks, cranks, and nuts. Finally, you learn that your own doctor recently attended a medical seminar. The lecture that he attended confirmed how effective Cholextra is, so he sends you off with some free samples and a prescription. You've really done your homework.

But what if all isn't as it seems? What if the reality you found was false; a carefully-constructed narrative by unseen special interests designed to manipulate your opinion? A Truman Show-esque alternate reality all around you? Complacency in the news media combined with incredibly powerful propaganda and publicity forces mean we sometimes get little of the truth. Special interests have unlimited time and money to figure out new ways to spin us while cloaking their role. Surreptitious astroturf methods are now more important to these interests than traditional lobbying of Congress. There's an entire industry built around it in Washington. What is astroturf? It's a perversion of grassroots, as in fake grassroots. *[a wordplay: AstroTurf is a brand for artificial grass. – WJ]* Astroturf is when political, corporate, or other special interests disguise themselves and publish blogs, start Facebook and Twitter accounts¹, publish ads and letters to the editor, or simply post comments online to try to fool you into thinking an independent or grassroots movement is speaking. The whole point of astroturf is to try to get the impression there's widespread support for or against an agenda when there's not. Astroturf seeks to manipulate you into changing your opinion by making you feel as if you're an outlier when you're not.

One example is the Washington Redskins' name. Without taking a position on the controversy, if you simply were looking at news media coverage over the course of the past year, or looking at social media, you probably have to conclude that most Americans find that name offensive and think it ought to be changed. But what if I told you 71% of Americans say the name should not be changed? That's more than two thirds.

¹ The following article from April 22, 2012, shows what an artificial network of fake Twitter accounts (sockpuppets, botnet) looks like: "[End of the Myth of Spontaneous Grassroots: Manufactured Social Consciousness Deciphered](#)"

Astroturfers seek to controversialize those who disagree with them. They attack news organizations that publish stories they don't like, whistle-blowers who tell the truth, politicians who dare to ask the tough questions, and journalists who have the audacity to report on all of it. Sometimes, astroturfers simply shove intentionally so much confusing and conflicting information into the mix that you're left to throw up your hands and disregard all of it, including the truth. Drown out a link between a medicine and a harmful side effect say, vaccines and autism, by throwing a bunch of conflicting paid-for studies, surveys, and experts into the mix, confusing the truth beyond recognition.

And then, there's Wikipedia—astroturf's dream come true. Built as the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit, the reality can't be more different. Anonymous Wikipedia editors control and co-opt pages on behalf of special interests. They forbid and reverse edits that go against their agenda. They skew and delete information in blatant violation of Wikipedia's own established policies with impunity; always superior to the poor schlubs who actually believe anyone can edit Wikipedia only to discover they're barred from correcting even the simplest factual inaccuracies. Try adding a footnoted fact or correcting a fact error on one of these monitored Wikipedia pages, and poof! sometimes within a matter of seconds you'll find your edit is reversed. In 2012, famed author Philip Roth tried to correct a major fact error about the inspiration behind one of his book characters cited on a Wikipedia page, but no matter how hard he tried, Wikipedia's editors wouldn't allow it. They kept reverting the edits back to the false information. When Roth finally reached a person at Wikipedia – which was no easy task – and tried to find out what was going wrong, they told him he simply was not considered a credible source on himself.

[A similar experience was made by a Norwegian teacher who intentionally wrote false information on Wikipedia (killer whales sometimes ate children, because from underneath they'd look like a seal) to see how many of his students would blindly copy this false information in their essays. Regretfully he realized that his passage couldn't be deleted afterwards and was even blindly copied and spread by professional journalists. See confession on reddit.com from December 30, 2018. – WJ]

A few weeks later, there was a huge scandal when Wikipedia officials got caught offering a PR service. They skewed and edited information on behalf of paid publicity-seeking clients, in utter opposition to Wikipedia's supposed policies. All of this may be why, when a medical study looked at medical conditions described on Wikipedia pages and compared it to actual peer-reviewed published research, Wikipedia contradicted medical research 90% of the time. You may never fully trust what you read on Wikipedia again, nor should you.²

Let's now go back to that fictitious Cholextra example and all the research you did. It turns out the Facebook and Twitter accounts you found that were so positive, were actually written by paid professionals hired by the drug company to promote the drug. The Wikipedia page had been monitored by an agenda editor, also paid by the drug company. The drug company also arranged to optimize Google search engine results so it was no accident that you stumbled across that positive non-profit that had all those positive comments. The non-profit was, of course, secretly founded and funded by the drug company. The drug company also financed that positive study and used its power of editorial control to omit any mention of cancer as a possible side-effect. Once more, each and every doctor who publicly touted Cholextra or called the cancer link a myth, or ridiculed critics as paranoid cranks and quacks, or served on the government advisory board that approved the drug, each of those doctors is actually a paid consultant for the drug company. As for your own doctor, the medical lecture he attended that had all those positive evaluations was in fact, like many continuing medical education classes, sponsored by the drug company. And when the news reported on that positive study, it didn't mention any of that.

I have tons of personal examples from real life. A couple of years ago, CBS News asked me to look into a story about a study coming out from the non-profit National Sleep Foundation. Supposedly, this press release coming out said the study concluded we are a nation with an epidemic of sleeplessness, and we don't even know it, and we should all go ask our doctors about it. A couple of things struck me about that. First, I recognized the phrase "ask your doctor" as a catch phrase promoted by the pharmaceutical industry. They know that if they can get your foot through the door at the doctor's office to mention a malady, you're very likely to be prescribed the latest drug that's marketed. *[Video recommendation: Marketing to Doctors: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO), February 8, 2015]* Second, I wondered how serious an

² This calls for an *honest* replacement of the encyclopedia! This will be one huge endeavor but there is no way around it. We certainly need a free and publicly accessible database of humanity's shared knowledge that is actually based on *truth* (or at least in pursuit of it) not on lies and fiction.

epidemic of sleeplessness could really be if we don't even know that we have it. It didn't take long for me to do a little research and discover that the National Sleep Foundation non-profit, and the study which was actually a survey not a study, were sponsored in part by a new drug that was about to be launched onto the market, called Lunesta, a sleeping pill. I reported the study, as CBS News asked, but of course, I disclosed the sponsorship behind the non-profit and the survey so the viewers could weigh the information accordingly. All the other news media reported the same survey directly off the press release, as written, without digging past the superficial. It later became an example written up in the Columbia Journalism Review, which quite accurately reported that only we, at CBS News, had bothered to do a little bit of research and disclose the conflict of interest behind this widely reported survey.

So now you may be thinking, *"What can I do? I thought I'd done my research. What chance do I have separating fact from fiction, especially if seasoned journalists with years of experience can be so easily fooled?"* I have a few strategies that I can tell you about to help you recognize signs of propaganda and astroturf. Once you start to know what to look for, you'll begin to recognize it everywhere. First, hallmarks of astroturf include use of inflammatory language such as "crank", "quack", "nutty", "lies," "paranoid", "pseudo", and "conspiracy." Astroturfers often claim to debunk myths that aren't myths at all. Use of the charged language test well: people hear something's a myth, maybe they find it on Snopes, and they instantly declare themselves too smart to fall for it. But what if the whole notion of the myth is itself a myth, and you and Snopes fell for that? Be aware when interests attack an issue by controversializing or attacking the people, personalities, and organizations surrounding it rather than addressing the facts. That could be astroturf. And most of all, astroturfers tend to reserve all of their public skepticism for those exposing wrongdoing rather than the wrongdoers. In other words, instead of questioning authority, they question those who question authority. You might start to see things a little more clearly; it's kind of like taking off your glasses, wiping them, and putting them back on, and realizing, for the first time, how foggy they'd been all along. I can't resolve these issues, but I hope that I've given you some information that will at least motivate you to take off your glasses and wipe them, and become a wiser consumer of information in an increasingly artificial, paid-for reality.

[Let me make **two addenda**: – WJ

Addendum #1: The following is an excerpt from the article [“Astroturf Lobbying Organizations: Do Fake Grassroots Need Real Regulation”](#) by Henry Young, November 02, 2009:

I. Introduction

Mail carts are pushed down the halls of Congress passing offices with televisions showing images of protestors at a rally. Phones in those congressional offices ring steadily from calls of individuals voicing their opinions over the issue du jour. But are the authors of the letters, the protestors on the televisions or the people on the other end of the telephone conversations concerned citizens or are they paid by an Astroturf organization – pawns of big business trying to pull the covers over the eyes of Congress?

An Astroturf organization is a “group that lends a veneer of moral legitimacy to a cause” which “allows a group to present its position as a grass roots campaign, regardless of the actual degree of public concern.” These organizations are often “Washington-based campaigns that simulate grassroots support but are in fact coordinate by ideological interest groups seeking particular legislative outcomes.” The purpose of creating such fake grassroots is to create a façade of widespread support by acting as grassroots organizations to hide their underlying motivation. Frequently Astroturf organizations have large bank accounts but small membership rolls. The term “Astroturf,” has been attributed to Democratic Senator and 1988 Vice-Presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen who, in 1985, said “[a] fellow from Texas can tell the difference between grassroots and Astroturf.”

Lobbying is big business inside the beltway, but it is the effects lobbying can have on businesses across the country that make lobbying so important. How Important? If the money spent by business on lobbying is any indication of how important lobbying is one can conclude it is staggeringly important. This year more than 275 million dollars have been spent on lobbying on health care reform alone! From June until September 2009 nearly one million dollars a day was spent on health care reform television advertising. With so much money being spent influencing Congress, the question of whether and how to regulate organizations that peddle such influence is a pressing one.

II. The Possible Downside of Astroturf Organizations

Exaggerating the number of people who support or oppose a policy is, of course, not new. But the line between exaggeration and fraud is, unfortunately, a narrowing one. For example, the coal lobby was caught essentially “sending

bogus letters to member of congress.” Such activities crossed the line from showing ones ideas in the best possible light to using smoke and mirrors to lie to elected representatives. Existing campaign finance laws require some disclosure but

[i]ndividual firms may mask their activity by acting through a trade association, and that association's members, objectives, and financial structure may be only partially transparent . . . they need not quantify the in-house dollars expended on lobbying, nor are the disclosure requirements sufficiently detailed as to subject matter. Firms also need not disclose their efforts to generate grassroots lobbying support.

[Jill E. Fisch, *How Do Corporations Play Politics?: The FedEx Story*, 2005]

In sum, existing laws are inadequate.

III. Should we Regulate Astroturf Lobbying Organizations? If so, How?

[...]

Whenever establishing a whole Astroturf organization/movement is too much work, a simple deception (like the [false incubator story](#)) may already be enough to achieve a particular goal. Looking at 9/11 and many other worldwide deceptions, one could view *the whole of mainstream* as one grandly organized and very successful Astroturf organization.

Addendum #2: Here is something on Wikipedia by *Swiss Propaganda Research*, [March 2020](#):

Wikipedia: A Disinformation Operation?

Wikipedia is generally thought of as an open, transparent, and mostly reliable online encyclopedia. Yet upon closer inspection, this turns out not to be the case.

In fact, the English Wikipedia with its [9 billion](#) worldwide page views per month is [governed](#) by just 500 active administrators, whose real identity in many cases remains unknown.

Moreover, studies have shown that 80% of all Wikipedia content [is written](#) by just 1% of all Wikipedia editors, which again amounts to just a few hundred mostly unknown people.

Obviously, such a non-transparent and hierarchical structure is susceptible to corruption and manipulation, the notorious [“paid editors”](#) hired by corporations being just one example.

Indeed, already in 2007, researchers found that CIA and FBI employees were [editing](#) Wikipedia articles on controversial topics including the Iraq war and the Guantanamo military prison.

Also in 2007, researchers found that one of the most active and influential English Wikipedia administrators, called “Slim Virgin”, was in fact a [former British intelligence informer](#).

More recently, another highly prolific Wikipedia editor going by the name of [“Philip Cross”](#) turned out to be linked to UK intelligence as well as several [mainstream media journalists](#).

In Germany, one of the most aggressive Wikipedia editors was [exposed](#), after a two-year legal battle, as a political operative formerly serving in the Israeli army as a foreign volunteer.

Even in Switzerland, unidentified government employees were caught [whitewashing Wikipedia entries](#) about the Swiss secret service just prior to a public referendum about the agency.

Many of these Wikipedia personae are editing articles almost all day and every day, [indicating](#) that they are either highly dedicated individuals, or in fact, operated by a group of people.

In addition, articles edited by these personae cannot easily be revised, since the above-mentioned administrators can always revert changes or simply block disagreeing users altogether.

The primary goal of these covert campaigns [appears to be](#) pushing Western and [Israeli government](#) positions while destroying the reputation of independent journalists and politicians. [*Very reminiscent of the [censorship in China](#). – WJ*]

Articles most affected by this kind of manipulation include political, geopolitical and certain historical topics as well as biographies of non-conformist academics, journalists, and politicians.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, a [friend](#) of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and a [“Young Leader”](#) of the Davos forum, has repeatedly [defended](#) these operations.

Speaking of Davos, Wikimedia has itself [amassed a fortune](#) of more than \$160 million, donated in large part not by lazy students, but [by major US corporations](#) and influential [foundations](#).

The current Wikimedia CEO, Katherine Maher, [previously worked at](#) the US Council on Foreign Relations ([CFR](#)) as well as at a subgroup of the US National Endowment for Democracy ([NED](#)).

Moreover, US social media and video platforms are increasingly [referring](#) to Wikipedia to frame or combat “controversial” topics. The revelations discussed above may perhaps help explain why. [*Headline behind the link says: “YouTube will use Wikipedia to help solve its conspiracy theory problem” – WJ*]

Already NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden [revealed](#) how spooks manipulate online debates, and more recently, a senior Twitter executive [turned out](#) to be a British Army “psyops” officer.

Addendum #3: I would like to stress that without Astroturfing the Corona panic would never have broken out! Sadly, all reason is lost when people get into PANIC mode and laws get changed on a daily basis. Hardly anyone has any time left to research these days, or to simply pause and think for a moment. Everyone just **reacts** and **executes whatever is demanded of him**, no matter how much of one’s own freedom gets lost along the way. If this is not a clear sign to our society that its citizens have basically degenerated into slaves, then let me add *loss of intelligence* to it as well. But that is a topic for itself...

At this time I would like to present four quotations which so far have gotten nowhere near the attention they deserve. The basic idea the last two of them bring forth is in my opinion the only true solution to society’s overall health improvement:

[...] conflicts of interest and biases exist in virtually every field of medicine, particularly those that rely heavily on drugs or devices. It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion, which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as an editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

– Dr. Marcia Angell, *Drug Companies & Doctors: A Story of Corruption*, [January 15, 2009](#)

Tragically, in the current versions of the ancient Hebrew Bible myth, the corporate Goliaths represent less than 1% of the population but have 99% of the money, 99% of the politicians, 99% of the weapons, 99% of the advertising budget, and 99% of the favorable press coverage. [...] Whistle-blowers are not welcome at such medical meetings. Truth-tellers rain on Big Pharma’s parade and thus are excluded. Only the pipers who are willing to play the pro-drug tune are allowed a voice at the table. [...] I saw hundreds of patients in my practice who had never been informed that their drugs could cause permanent tardive dyskinesia, tardive dementia, drug-induced brain damage, drug-induced disabilities, temporary or permanent sexual dysfunction, irrational behaviors (including violence), suicidality, Parkinsonism, depression, mania, psychotic reactions, atrophy (shrinkage) of the brain, diabetes, obesity, insomnia, hyperlipidemia, loss of IQ points, loss of memory, etc, etc.

– Gary G. Kohls, MD, *Cognitive Dissonance and the Psychopharmaceutical Industry*, [June 4, 2015](#)



Germ Theory
Vaccinate the Fish

Terrain Theory
Clean the Tank

If the medical community were honest, it would be forced to admit that the model of disease that catapulted Pasteur to fame has played itself out and is pushing us to disability and death.

– Merinda Teller, MPH, PHD, *Germ Theory Versus Terrain: The Wrong Side Won the Day*, [July 30, 2019](#)

I see a whole lot of this: ‘People who don’t wear masks are selfish and putting everyone else in danger.’ Just no. Stop. Do you know what’s selfish? Passing off responsibility for YOUR health to everyone else around you. It doesn’t work that way. YOUR health is YOUR responsibility. MY health is MINE. Trust me, you don’t want ME in charge of your health because I’ll swoop in and toss out all your junk food, processed crap, alcohol, & cigs, fill your fridge with fruits and veggies, force you to drink water, take quality supplements, exercise daily, and get plenty of sleep. Oh, what’s that? You don’t want to be told what to eat, drink, take, do,

etc? Well, Karen, if the way you’re living promotes poor health and a depleted immune system that isn’t functioning at its best, then you don’t get to make a single health decision for me. Furthermore, if YOUR mask works, which you obviously believe it does since you want to force everyone to wear one, you have nothing to worry about if I choose not to. My freedoms don’t end where your fear begins. We are all adults that make our own decisions regarding the level of risk we are willing to take in everyday life. As of now, we’re a free country, although that seems to be changing. If YOU want to wear a mask, bleach everything around you, wear gloves, and never touch anyone or anything... that’s up to you. I do not and cannot accept that life. Sincerely, A woman who has never changed her daily routine, worn a mask or gloves, or sanitized the heck out of everything since all this started. And I’m still here and haven’t been sick. Thank God for properly functioning immune systems (which are NO accident, btw)

– Shared from *Quentilla Ann*, June, 2020

17.) Clearing Up the Term “Conspiracy Theory”

by *Andreas Popp*
(December 22, 2012)

In this fast world of ours any accurate communication, even with the most basic of topics, seldom occurs. So how can we prevent this failed system from getting into a deeper mess than it already is if we are, evidently, not even able to communicate with each other clear and constructively? The alleged decision-competent people of science and politics seem to care rather little about making their arguments free of subjective interpretation. This would force them to take clear positions instead of leaving all doors open for a possible pullback.

Yet a precise definition of terminology is an indispensable foundation for every constructive communication. Yet instead, meaningful words are being tainted with “mental viruses” in order to obscure their clarifying character. This term stems from the meme research and describes a tendentious or even false attribution of meaning to specific words. With this sort of tainted definitions it is possible to virally infiltrate reasonable words into the population so that, objectively speaking, they not only lose their proper meaning but also trigger a downright negative reflex in their recipient. I noticed how in talk shows, parliamentary debates, media reports and even alternative Internet blogs, etc., these word weapons are constantly being used to discredit “opponents.”

Today, I would like to discuss a modern word which can be taken as a classic example of the defamation of free-thinking people. That word is “conspiracy theory.” Recently in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, I spoke in front of a fairly versed audience, consisting of successful managers, scientists and politicians. There, as is often the case, my usually well-considered statements and terminology lead to interposed questions. Of course, I am always pleased by something like this because it gives me the chance to explain the vocabulary I use. It is not my nature to place myself above others by claiming that I could define each and every term conclusively but I can place myself under the objective and constraint to use as few imprudent words as possible, which of course is not always manageable either.

Among other things during the speech, I spoke about a good deal of evidence indicating, as I see it, lobbying with regard to the European Union. When somebody from the audience called my statements a conspiracy theory, I was glad about this constructive remark and thanked him for it. Then I noticed a slight confusion on his part which prompted me to explain the term “conspiracy theory” in more detail.

The term is a compound noun, consisting of: 1. conspiracy, 2. theory.

For the term “conspiracy” dictionaries and encyclopedia will generally give you a definition like “*collaborative working for a secret, illegal or illegitimate purpose.*”

Conspiracy:

“collaborative working for a secret, illegal or illegitimate purpose”

There is for example the “conspiracy” of many parents towards their children when they lead them to believe in Santa Clause. Of course, there is no illegal or illegitimate purpose here. But a collaborative, secret working it is nonetheless, and thus a conspiracy.

In fact, our whole world is filled with agreements and conspiracies through which one tries to deceive others – if you think about it for a moment. For example, this can be a company against its competitors but can also happen in the private domain when friends agree on something before they talk with others about it.

The second term, “theory,” can be defined in this context as a model of reality which is based on observation, evidence and prospects.

Theory:

“model of reality which is based on observation, evidence and prospects”

To complete the example with Santa Clause, there are certainly children who suspect a secret working among their parents, thus a conspiracy, and to this effect build a model of reality, thus a theory. As per definition one may praise these astute children as conspiracy theorists.

But why is it that for most of us the term conspiracy theorist triggers a rather dismissive association? Apparently here we have a memetic noun at hand, which is to say, a “mental virus,” as I have previously described. Our world is full of visible and hidden memes which makes an accurate communication highly difficult.

The possibility of a conspiracy theory should make an essential element of any given research. After all, allegedly “proved” statements could also rest upon the interests of certain lobbyists who intend to develop new markets this way. And as we point out over and over again, our economic order is subject to enforced growth.

I know many conspiracy theorists in the everyday life who would not call themselves as such. For example, when at the onset of holidays gas stations increase their prices nationwide, one assumes a secret price fixing with illegal purpose among the oil companies – in short, a conspiracy. Of course, without any actual proof, this solely on evidence and assumption based conjecture is merely a theory. So, here we have another case of a conspiracy theory which is easily recognized if you ask yourself the question “Cui bono?” (To whom is it a benefit?).

As per these brief definitions and examples, someone who is not a conspiracy theorist would have to believe that Santa Clause is real and that oil companies do not exploit all possibilities to pursue their commercial interests. He would have to believe virtually anything he is told, since he can’t suspect any conspiracy.

Let’s go a step further and put the finger deeper into the wound of this sloppy use of vocabulary. Subject: 9/11. The final report of the US administration regarding the terror attacks is a collection of evidence and half proofs which is supposed to prove a conspiracy of one Mr. Osama bin Laden and a couple of accomplices. Given the dubiousness of the evidence, this report must naturally be considered a theory. So taken as a whole, it is simply a theory, advertised by news agencies and governments. In contrast to that there are also other persons with expertise (like the organization “Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth” consisting of over 1000 architects and engineers) who arrive in their assessment of evidence and half proofs at completely different conspiracy theories.

It is important to realize here that, usually, several different theories of conspiracy compete with each other. Yet a tinge of bitterness appears when one of the parties assert their claim on discrediting others with the term “conspiracy theorist” – even though the term’s negative connotation is undeserved.

At this point I have to question the respectability of official institutions who refuse to call their own conspiracy theories as such. The reactions of this power elite once again reinforce the suspicion that there is less interest in clearing up the issue and more interest in the implementation of certain dogmas – but of course that’s already another conspiracy theory...

**Conspiracy Denial:
“the claim that an event is not the result of a conspiracy”**

Besides the so-called conspiracy theorists there is also a whole branch of conspiracy *deniers*. A conspiracy denier is someone who claims that an event is *not* the result of a conspiracy. However, the reasoning that something does *not* exist is generally difficult, if not impossible. This branch apparently evolved from the mainstream-ridden, journalistic guild who therefore contribute rather little to the transparency of the actual issues and instead energetically feed the laid-out smoke screen of confusion.

**Non-Conspiracy Theory:
“theory of an idyllic world without collusion”**

By the way, those who are convinced that big media companies feel the obligation towards a solely objective news coverage and at the same time even ignore commercial benefits because they like to serve exclusively for ascertaining the truth, then these people may confidently call themselves “*non-conspiracy* theorists”. This of course also applies for many fellow citizens who believe, for

example, that all members of the Bundestag [the German federal parliament] only care for the people's well-being and would never in the interest of their own career be sweet-talked in a back room into decisions that they do not feel confident about.

The assumption and examination of potentially secret agreements and deceptions – this line of work was once called investigative journalism – should get back the reputation it deserves. Otherwise we deprive ourselves of essential thought processes and prevent the best possible approach to the truth. The advantage of conspiracy theories, by the way, is that with the emergence of new findings and new data you can correct and even disprove a theory.

We should absolutely pause and reflect the next time we hear the word “conspiracy theorist” because those labeled as such may have more depth to them than the TV channel that likes to use this word in defense reaction or even as a knockout argument.

We see how important it is to define our vocabulary, as not to discredit our fellow human beings. There are a number of modern words in need of a definition, e.g. anti-Semitism, extremism, freedom, humanism, nationalism, regionalism, pacifism, racism, radicalness, sovereignty, truth and so on... How else will we be able to hold a peaceful conversation? Or is that not desired? Oops, it seems there is yet another conspiracy theory emerging from the horizon...

I openly affirm to be a “conspiracy theorist” because everything else I perceive as either naive (in the case of non-conspiracy theorists) or presumptuous (in the case of conspiracy deniers). If I want to research unbiasedly (and this is my intention), I have to be very careful in how I handle the word “truth” because I know that I can never be acquainted with all relevant evidence or proof that have lead me to my current world view. My experience leaves me to suspect that we, as citizens, are being politically controlled by people who don't reveal their identities in the big media companies but operate in the background in the framework of conspiracies.

We only need to think of the financial crisis which is a system created dilemma, as we in the *Wissensmanufaktur* have repeatedly pointed out. The big media companies don't show any signs of wanting to question the actual root cause. Rather, they describe a tinkering with symptoms which of course – and this can be proved mathematically – cannot work. Many illuminated heads inside and outside of the official science repeatedly prove that those paths currently being taken will lead to impoverishment. I suspect a conspiracy among the ruling powers to prevent alternative models – those of benefit to the people – from making it to the mainstream public. Of course I can't prove it without forming a conspiracy theory first. Or perhaps it is just the self-censorship as a result of the often described pluralistic ignorance, which is why the [Plan B of the Wissensmanufaktur](#) is hardly ever discussed in the publicized opinion.

If we don't pursue the question of who is in power and instead only naively approach the problems of our system, we will achieve rather little. Those who lack a well-developed faculty of abstraction and can't imagine that power obsessed individuals would – as per secret agreements – condone the infliction of harm upon people, are in my opinion hardly suitable for initiating a goal-oriented change. Sadly, there is little demand of civic courage when it comes to hoisting one's very own pennon in the mainstream's wind. Yet those who dare to speak up about a suspected or identified conspiracy will be thoroughly dissected in their reputation by conspiracy deniers, while the majority of the people ignore this ongoing operation.

Our hectic world overburdens a lot of people. Burnout and depression have mutated into widespread disease. Most of the still functioning people seem to hold on to the published worldview because they, too, are often at their capacity's limit. Could this not be the reason why in this day and age aggressive conspiracy deniers shout “conspiracy theorist” in a similar fashion as people once shouted “heretic”? Perhaps a certain self-protection in some people doesn't allow for a reshaping of one's own “idyllic world,” no matter how overwhelming the evidence may be.

**Conspiracy Theorist:
“heretic who questions the belief of an idyllic world?”**

It should be the general case to discuss established conspiracy theories in a serious manner. After all, this way many muddled situations may become more transparent as well.

66.) The Crime of 1920

[I had merely wanted to include a two-liner quote by Henry Ford into chapter 16 but during my search for it I stumbled upon something else that I think deserves a whole chapter of its own. Mainly taken from U. S. Congressional Records, it is a little bit of history that most people today are probably not familiar with. For the sake of context, it seems the better choice to present it non-chronologically. – WJ, November 02, 2020]

The following is from a speech made on [March 19, 1937](#), by Charles Gustav Binderup, a Nebraska politician who served as United States Congressman from 1935 to 1939. (U. S. Congressional Record v81:H2528) – WJ

Mr. Binderup. [...] And now, Mr. Speaker and fellow Members of Congress, I wish to return to the subject I had intended to discuss this afternoon. There is an old, old saying that peace has its horrors as much as war, and by this I mean to refer once more to the crime of 1920, the greatest crime that was ever committed against the people. On former occasions and appearances before this House, on February 16 and March 4, and more or less at other times, I told you of this crime that was committed at 12 o'clock noon on the 18th day of May 1920 in the office of Governor Harding, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board of the Federal Reserve bank, where a secret meeting was being held, consisting of 53 of the large banking representatives of the United States, international bankers and representatives of Wall Street, and also Mr. Houston, the Secretary of the Treasury, and John Skelton Williams, the Comptroller of the Currency, ex-officio member of the Federal Reserve Board of the Federal Reserve bank at that time. Since that time, however, the Comptroller of the Currency and the Secretary of the Treasury – the representatives of the people – have been removed, as they were apparently in the way of the large bankers and interfered with their program.

I have in my possession the records of the minutes of that meeting. There is no longer any question about it. It is strange to me that the people of America have not long since known exactly how it is, and why it is, that this disastrous calamity, this depression, was brought upon us. This was the twenty-fifth time that we had suffered from these depressions, all coming from the same source, all man-made. Every depression is man-made, and yet we did not understand.

Everybody said and whispered to each other, "Isn't it strange? What in the world is the matter? We seem to have too much of everything, and yet we are in want. We have too much to eat and to drink, too much of the necessities of life, too much of the luxuries, and everything, but we can't have it." Yes, my friends, we are sitting upon the largest pile of gold that has ever been accumulated in the history of the world in any nation; actually sitting upon this pile of gold, surrounded by all the natural resources that an Almighty God could give to man, in a nation with unlimited credit and unlimited wealth, and yet the farmer is losing his farm and the laboring man is losing his home. Fifteen thousand banks failed, destroyed eight billions of the people's savings. And all about us there are bankruptcies and misery and want and despair, soup kitchens, and bread lines.

And then the people of our great Nation would look at each other in surprise and say, "I can't understand it. It's the strangest thing that I ever heard of. How can it happen that we are suffering of poverty in the midst of plenty?"

My friends, believe me, there is only one reason. It is because they had that meeting on the 18th day of May 1920 in Governor Harding's office, where they took away from the people their money, the lifeblood of trade and industry and the wheels of commerce. I wish I could shout this from the mountaintop until the people of our great Nation might know and understand. I assure you that there would then be a change before morning if the people only knew.

It was Henry Ford who said, in substance, this: "It is perhaps well enough that the people of the Nation do not know or understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning."

I told you in my last talks the substance of the conversation that took place at this meeting, and one of the first days direct from this floor I will tell you the name of every banker who was there, representing the interests of the Morgans and the Mills and the Myerses and the Mellons and the Rockefellers and the Du Ponts and the large corporations and money monopolies.

[...] these men were not considerate of the Nation. They belonged to the class that say by their actions, "We do not care for the Almighty God. Just give us the almighty dollar. All we want is that interest must have a greater purchasing power." Let me once more repeat the words of Governor Harding. It is so striking, my friends, that I know you will welcome a repetition. Mr. Harding was the Governor of the Federal Reserve Board of the Federal Reserve banks, and presided at the meeting on this, the 18th day of May 1920. Let me once more quote from the record of the meeting, as follows: First, "We must have a reduction in credit, a credit contraction" (meaning thereby taking the money out of circulation.) And then he added (again quoting from the record of the meeting), "This is a drastic remedy, but we believe it is necessary."

He knew and they all knew, and we know it now, that this was a drastic remedy. He knew what it meant to crush down the price level. He said, "It is a drastic remedy, but we think it is necessary." We know that it was not necessary, except for those who wanted to enrich themselves at the expense of suffering humanity. The words I have given to you, remember, are copied from the records of the meeting.

Now, just consider what happened to the people of the United States after this meeting on the 18th day of May 1920, that I have described to you. In order to show you the direct reflex, the effects, of that meeting, let me take myself for an example, for I represent one of the 125,000,000 people that suffered thereunder. In stating my own experiences I am merely stating yours. In fact, I am just reviewing and reminding you of what took place in your own community, in your own home, and on your own farm.

I had always been a big borrower in my home bank. I was always quite a developer, doing considerable building, and employing quite a few men. One bright summer morning, in the following month of June, I came in to my banker as usual, to renew my note and to pay my interest. My good old banker, with whom I had done business for 20 years [...]

My old banker said to me: "Charlie, how about paying this note?" I looked at him in surprise. I said, "Why? Do you not want me to do business with you? You are not afraid of me, are you? I have just given you my property statement. I am worth more than I have ever been worth before in my life, and business is wonderful. Profits are good. Do you not want to do business with me any more, or why do you want me to pay this note?"

The old gentleman smiled and turned to his desk and got a letter. He handed it to me and asked me to read it. The letter was from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; that is our bank in my district. I read the letter, and now let me tell you what was in that letter. Let me repeat that every banker, member bank of the Federal Reserve, and most other banks, received a similar letter. Those that did not belong to the Federal Reserve bank were supposed to be influenced by the letter just the same.

The letter from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City said to my banker, and to your banker, that they were restricting credits; that they had raised their rediscount rate to 7 percent minimum in Kansas City and as high as 20 percent, considered penalty interest, if the borrowings were not reduced, loans classed by the Federal Reserve banking system as "unessential loans." Seven percent minimum—that was more than I was paying my banker for the use of the money. The letter also said that they had restricted the number of loans that were called these "nonessential loans"; that there were many things whereon they had rediscounted paper before that they would not rediscount any more. This made it impossible for my banker to rediscount a great deal of his paper, and so he had to collect and pay up.

After I had read the letter my old banker said to me, "Now you understand. Don't you see why it is I am asking you to pay your note? It is so that we can pay our obligations to Kansas City, in order to eliminate the impossible interest that we have to pay, and reduce our indebtedness with them." I understood, so I started to spread the fire of contraction of credit and money. I went out and said to everybody who owed me. "Pay up. You must pay up." And everybody else went out—hundreds went out, thousands went out, millions went out. Everybody said to everybody else, "Pay up. Pay up." And so we began to force collections among each other. We sued each other. We abused each other. We trampled upon each other in the mad scramble for money, in order to get hold of a little miserable cash, so that we could pay up. I sold the last house I built for less than cost, in order to pay up, sacrificing, as everybody sacrificed, to follow the edict that had issued forth from that meeting of the Federal Reserve Board of the Federal Reserve bank at 12 o'clock on the 18th day of May 1920, which edict was issued to the 12 Federal regional reserve banks of the United States.

And with this demand to pay up, farmers threw everything they had on the market. They sold their eggs finally for 5 cents a dozen, their butter for 10 cents; they sold their hogs for 2 cents, shoats for 1 cent a pound. They sold wheat for a quarter, and oats for 11 cents. They threw everything they had on the market and congested the market, in this campaign to pay up that issued from the Federal Reserve Board of the Federal Reserve banks In Washington, D. C.

And the merchants sold their goods, emptied the shelves, and congested the market, in an effort to pay up. They discharged their clerks to pay up, and, since they were unable to buy for lack of money, the factories closed down and discharged their employees; and thus was once more crucified on the cross of gold—money—the farmer and the laboring man; their purchasing power and consuming power paralyzed because they had that secret meeting on the 18th day of May 1920, these wizards of finance, these hounds of monopoly and vultures of greed.

They took away from us the circulating medium of exchange, the lifeblood of trade and industry, our money and our credit. And so the campaign to pay went on and on. Every time we paid the banker a dollar, he sent it to the Federal Reserve banks to be destroyed, burned up, or perhaps not exactly burned, but thrown into a vault and locked up, which means the same thing so far as the money is concerned. It might as well have been burned.

Or else the banker locked it in his own vault, in order to make his bank safe, to increase his cash reserve. And even with their best efforts, 15,000 of our banks went broke, and all of them would have gone broke had we not come to the rescue in 1933. And the check-book money, based on credit—it vanished like the dew before a summer sun. And so the campaign went on and on, and in a short time it reflected more drastically on agriculture, because agriculture has no protection. Its prices are decidedly governed by supply and demand. The farmers were selling their products for one quarter of the cost of production. It could end only in bankruptcy. And so it followed; farm after farm was sacrificed on the block of bankruptcy. Thousands and hundreds of thousands went into bankruptcy, until at the present time, as I said in the beginning, peace has its horrors no less than war.

A dollar in the hands of selfish greed and money monopoly is more dangerous, more powerful than shot or shell, than sword or gun. The old unequal battle went on and on. The power of capital and predatory money monopoly, centralized in the modern Frankenstein, the Federal Reserve Banking System, privately owned, against the toiling masses, the great producers of all wealth. [...]

The following is from another speech by Charles Gustav Binderup from two weeks earlier, [March 04, 1937](#). (U. S. Congressional Record v81:H1895) – WJ

Mr. Binderup. So we raised the price level higher and higher and they knew, these wizards of finance, as I say, because they had read political economy and they had experimented on Uncle Sam many times before, they knew how to make that interest buy more labor and the products of labor. They knew they had to crush the price level down, that had been crushed down 24 times before in our Nation, and they knew that other nations had taken money out of circulation and lowered prices and increased the purchasing power of money. They knew and understood that money measures values by its own abundance. [...] They knew they had to contract the volume of money and credit and bring prices down to increase the purchasing power of interest. All they had to do was to take money out of circulation; and so those 50 wizards of finance that met up there at that particular time followed the suggestion of John Perrin, who was Chairman of the Board and Federal Reserve agent of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. He suggested that they immediately take out of circulation \$2,000,000,000 of Federal Reserve currency, restricting loans and contracting credit by burning up or destroying or locking up this amount of Federal Reserve currency. They knew what they were doing. They talked at length about taking \$2,000,000,000 out of circulation; \$2,000,000,000 of basic Federal Reserve currency out of circulation by contracting loans and refusing to make new loans. I want to tell you a bit more about that meeting. I happen to have the minutes of that meeting in my possession, and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of May 1932 I read where in this Congress you incorporated the speech of John Simpson, who related what had happened in this meeting, as related by John Skelton Williams, so this is familiar

to many of you. When John Perrin, the big banker of San Francisco, suggested taking \$2,000,000,000 out of circulation, it was John Skelton Williams, the humane Comptroller of the Currency and a devoted friend to the people, appointed by Woodrow Wilson, who rose and said:

Why, gentlemen, you cannot take \$2,000,000,000 out of circulation; that is 25 percent of the wheels of commerce. That is one fourth of the lifeblood in the veins and arteries of trade and commerce in Uncle Sam's system; you cannot take that out without a great crash. You will thereby collapse our great Nation. Do you not realize that our financial system, the banking system of our Nation, is builded on a strange precarious foundation, like a mist, a cloud, a shadow, a vision, a strange mystic intangible foundation called "confidence"? Just a little spark that exists only in the brain of man. Can you not realize that if you give such a shock to our financial system you will snuff out that little spark of confidence and the whole financial system of the United States will collapse?

They answered John Skelton Williams and said, in substance, this: "We have too many small banks, anyway. What we need is a large chain banking system." Again they discussed the situation of taking the people's money away from them, and once more John Skelton Williams arose and said:

Do you not realize that the farmers and laboring people of this great Nation have all got mortgages on their farms and homes? Can you not see that by creating a scarcity of money you will increase mortgages, measured in human effort, and wipe out all equities, and that the farmers and the laboring people will wake up some morning and find the only thing they have left is the mortgage on their homes? Their equities will have been wiped out--disappeared like the dew before a summer sun. Do you not realize that the merchant who buys goods and puts them on the shelf has bought them on a certain price level? You cannot crush this price level down any more than you could crowd yourself into a suit of clothes that you wore when you were 10 years old. You cannot crowd the price level down. You bought your goods, your homes, and your farms, and made your future contracts on a certain price level. When you crowd that price level down you create misery and want and starvation and deprivation and bread lines and soup kitchens; you invite war and pestilence, suicides, and crime. You crush Uncle Sam, and in this way will destroy his life, and he will follow in the same path as nations of the past that lived once but are no more, covered by the dust of time and forgotten but for a few yellow pages in history.

Every nation that ever was or ever will be can be destroyed if you crush down a price level, thereby creating extreme poverty, making the rich richer and the poor poorer, dividing a people, whereby one class dies of lust and luxury, idleness, and overindulgence, and the other class dies of misery and want, poverty, and starvation, and a nation with a people divided will fall. To crush down the price level without the results I have told you is as impossible as putting a chicken back in the shell 2 weeks after it has been hatched.

When John Skelton Williams pleaded to the wizards of finance for the farmer and the laboring man, warning them that these would lose their farms and homes, they answered him and said, in substance, this: "Well, the farmers and the laboring people have made a lot of money during and after the war. They will stand it all right." They knew and understood this would mean a crash. If you doubt this, listen to the words of Governor Harding, who presided at this meeting:

There are two remedies that suggest themselves; first, a reduction in the volume of credit, credit contraction—meaning taking money out of circulation. That is a drastic remedy; it is unpleasant medicine. The other method is to build up production—meaning to let the farmer overproduce and the laboring man create enough commodities to bring the price down so that interest could buy more farm products and products of labor.

And they selected the former method, taking the people's money out of circulation. And so, my friends, it took these few mighty bankers who held in their own hands the magic wand of money power, some 50 of them, although a few of them did object and remonstrated against this drastic procedure, less than 2 hours to destroy the prosperity and happiness of a great Nation and of a great people, and it has now taken us over 17 years, costing billions of dollars and costing thousands of lives and immeasurable sorrow and suffering to our people, to try to overcome this crime committed by predatory plundering combinations of money monopoly. It has filled our prisons and poorhouses, hospitals, and cemeteries. And so a mighty nation crashed from the highest plains of prosperity, and a happy people, who were building the great institutions of civilization higher and higher by leaps and bounds, into the unfathomable heights of human advancement, were reduced to misery and want. [...]

These closing words of a fateful conference, it can be conservatively said, are the most damning indictment of the management of the Federal Reserve system which could be penned by the worst enemies of that organization. The Manufacturers' Record has shown since shortly after that meeting was held some of its decisions, but it has never until within the last few days been able to get hold of a stenographic copy of the minutes. But with this stenographic report we are now able to give to our readers some details regarding that meeting which strengthened and confirmed the work of deflation which had already been inaugurated. After a long conference and full discussion, covering 37 pages of foolscap, closely typewritten, the statement that Governor Harding closed the meeting with was an emphatic warning to those in attendance that the deliberations of that meeting should be held as strictly confidential except to fellow directors and that the public should not be allowed to know what had taken place and the newspapers should know only so much of the meeting as the carefully prepared statement would present.

As far back as July 3, 1919, the Manufacturers' Record warned the Federal Reserve Board against some of the actions that were then being taken, and said:

Not for a moment would we suggest that the members of the Federal Reserve Board were in any way financially interested in the stock market, but we can readily understand the limitless power of stock speculation and the manipulation of the stock market which would be available to anyone who knew a few hours in advance of such proposed action by the Reserve Board. It is entirely within the power of that board to break the stock or the cotton market or to bring about big boom movement in cotton or stocks. The power is too great to rest in the hands of any seven men, even if they were angelic in character, for they might be succeeded by those who were not so angelic.

That editorial emphasized the control which big financial interests had held over the stock market to break it when it suited their convenience to buy in stock or to boom it when it suited their convenience to unload stocks, and we added:

It was hoped that the organization of the Federal Reserve Board would make this impossible; but the recent action of the board resulted in a very rapid break in the stock market, and it is within the power of the board to bring about a rapid advance whenever there is a change of policy and prevent the calling of loans or the sharp advance in money.

In that editorial we quoted from the Boston News Bureau a very sharp arraignment of some of the methods of the Federal Reserve Board and closed with the statement from the news bureau:

Before the Federal Reserve system a money squeeze was one of the tricks of the trade to frighten the public out of their stocks. Are the administrators of the Federal Reserve system going to countenance the same old game by allowing the people who have the control of money to play with values on a discount basis, arresting advancement and prosperity?

When two years ago the Manufacturers' Record urged that every important meeting of the Federal Reserve Board should be held in the open, with the right of the public to know what was taking place, so that no secret acts should be passed giving to the insiders limitless possibilities for money-making, we knew that we had thrown a bombshell into the camp of secrecy, but we did not at that time know that Governor Harding had so specifically and emphatically urged that that conference should regard its whole discussion as secret and to be withheld from the newspaper and from the public at large. The human mind is somewhat staggered as it tries to outline the limitless possibilities for money-making on the part of every man who, having this secret information, knew exactly what would happen in the business world long in advance of what the general business public could even suspect, even if no man ever used this information to his own individual profit. This conference, the closing statement of which we have quoted, was held on May 18, 1920. Those in attendance were as follows :

Hon. Adolph C. Miller, member of the Federal Reserve Board.
 Hon. Henry A. Mohlenpah, member of the Federal Reserve Board.
 Hon. John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency and member ex officio of the Federal Reserve Board.
 Hon. David F. Houston, Secretary of the Treasury and member ex officio of the Federal Reserve Board.
 George L. Harrison, counsel, Federal Reserve Board.

Also the members of the Federal advisory council:

Philip Stockton, Federal reserve district No. 1.
 A. B. Hepburn, Federal reserve district No. 2.
 L. L. Rue, Federal reserve district No. 3.
 W. S. Rowe, Federal reserve board No. 4.
 J. G. Brown, Federal reserve district No. 5.
 Oscar Wells, Federal reserve district No. 6.
 James B. Forgan, Federal reserve district No. 7.
 F. O. Watts, Federal reserve district No. 8.

E. F. Swinney, Federal reserve district No. 10.
 R L. Ball, Federal reserve district No. 11.
 A. L. Mills, Federal reserve district No. 12.
 J. H. Puelicher, Marshall & Ilsley Bank, Milwaukee, Wis.
 John Perrin, chairman of the board and Federal reserve agent. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.
 Hon. Edmund Platt, chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee, House of Representatives.

Also the following class A directors, of the Federal reserve banks:

Boston: Thomas Beal, Edward S. Kennard, and Frederick S. Chamberlain.
 New York: James A. Alexander, R. H. Treman, Charles Smith, and J. H. Sisson.
 Philadelphia: Joseph Wayne, jr., M. J. Murphy, and Francis Douglas.
 Cleveland: O. N. Sams, Robert Wardrop and Chess Lamberton.
 Richmond: John F. Bruton, Charles E. Rieman, and Edwin Mann.
 Atlanta: J. K. Ottley, Oscar Newton, P. R. Kittles, and W. H. Kettig.
 Chicago: George M. Reynolds, Charles H. McNider, and E. L. Johnson.
 St. Louis: J. C. Utterback and Sam A. Ziegler.
 Minneapolis: Wesley C. McDowell and E. W. Decker.
 Kansas City: J. C. Mitchell, C. E. Burham, and W. J. Bailey.
 Dallas: John T. Scott, E. K. Smith, and B. A. McKinney.
 San Francisco: C. K. McIntosh, J. E. Fishburn, and M. A. Buchan.

DOOM OF COUNTRY'S BUSINESS INTERESTS SOUNDED AT CONFERENCE COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF BANKERS.

It will be noted that those in attendance were preeminently bankers and that business men as such were not there, though the business men and not the bankers are the ones who create the business of the country, whether in agriculture, manufacture, or other lines of industry. Their doom was being settled in a conference composed exclusively of bankers.

In opening the proceedings Governor Harding, referring to those in attendance, said:

The class A directors are the banker members of the boards of directors of the Federal reserve banks. They are not only directors, and as a rule very influential directors, of Federal reserve banks but they are officials of member banks, and thus they see both sides of the picture: So it seems to be peculiarly appropriate at a time when there is a banking situation to discuss to have bankers here to discuss it.

It is true that it might have been important to have bankers there to discuss the subjects up for consideration that day, but is it not also true that the manufacturers, the merchants, the farmers, and all others representing the producing and transportation interests of the country were just as vitally interested in a conference of this kind as those who were exclusively engaged in banking?

[...]

Mr. Alexander was asked by Mr. Ottley, referring to the suggested raise in rates to 7 per cent:

In view of the basic line that is under consideration by the Federal reserve bank, would it be your idea, Mr. Alexander, to just make a flat rate of 7 per cent or start off the basic line at 6 per cent with a rising scale?

And to this Mr. Alexander replied:

Make the basic rate 7 per cent. I am in hopes that there will be no plan of progressive rates put in effect in New York. Make the rate 7 per cent. I am speaking of commercial paper. * * * Commercial paper is the thing that is being created in volume right now and we want to limit it as much as we possibly can limit the creation of commercial paper.

[...]

Mr. Francis Douglas, of the Philadelphia Reserve Bank, reported that some banks were not cooperating to the fullest extent with the Federal reserve bank, and he suggested that a letter stating the actual conditions should be sent to the various banks, not only member banks but nonmember banks, throughout the country, in a plan of education; and added:

It would be very beneficial and would help a great deal in the deflation of credit.

[...]

Mr. E. L. Johnson, of the Chicago Reserve Bank, said:

I believe that education and propaganda must be carried on, with authority and with strength, carried on from this board and from these gentlemen here down to all the nonmember banks on to the small business man in the small factory.

Evidently the propaganda was carried on and carried on with authority and with strength, for bankers everywhere were warned to curtail credits, and naturally any man who was not a fool from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet knew that that meant the breakdown of prices, the breakdown of business, and the increase of unemployment; and therefore every man stopped buying raw materials or finished products of every kind. Mr. Johnson added that Governor Harding's speech should be

properly disseminated among them with the show of authority, even if you do not have it.

[...]

With a registered letter to the president of each member bank and requirement that he read this letter at the next meeting of his board of directors the Dallas bank was evidently following the suggestion of Mr. Johnson, of the Chicago bank, who suggested that the governor's speech should be disseminated among the bankers with a show of authority, even though the governor did not have the authority. The Dallas bank either had the authority or it took it, and at any rate the member banks that received that registered letter well knew they were taking their life in their hands if they failed to obey it.

[...]

Mr. John Perrin, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, said:

The way to meet that problem is to bring about in the next three or four months a definite amount of contraction which would permit us to expand correspondingly in the fall. If it were possible for every bank in the country to reduce its loans during the next three or four months to the extent, say, of 10 per cent, there would be a total expansion in the fall possible of approximately \$2,000,000,000.

[...]

Mr. Forgan then presented some documents from the American Bankers' Association committee and other organizations which had been disturbed by the unrest already created throughout the country by the campaign of deflation which had been for some time under way by Federal reserve banks and by the fear that this convention would make still more drastic rulings. Letters were presented also from some leading business concerns along the same line. If any of these big business interests were tipped off in advance as to what was to be done prior to this information leaking out to the public they would have had an opportunity to make many millions of dollars. If, for instance, some corporation through some member of this meeting learned that deflation was to be continued it would have had a chance to unload before the break in prices came. It is hardly possible that, as 100 copies of the report from which we are quoting were printed for confidential circulation, so we are advised, and the type then destroyed, some people did not have an opportunity of learning what the public had not learned and thus of having the opportunity of utilizing this information in a way which might have made millions or saved millions.

[...]

[Very much like the people and corporations who pulled Cyprus deposits ahead of "Confiscation Day" and before Cyprus' banks all closed for two whole weeks, starting in March 16, 2013. – WJ]

When the press is denied the right to learn for itself what is going on and must accept as law and gospel any prepared report, the public may rest assured that it is not getting the real facts, and yet such a prepared report was all that the press has heretofore ever been able to secure as to the discussions which took place in that meeting.

[...]

As the Manufacturers' Record showed a few weeks ago, the decline in the value of farm lands in 1920 and 1921 under deflation amounted to about \$18,000,000,000, and the decline in the value of farm products of these two years as compared with 1919 prices showed a decrease of over \$14,000,000,000, making a total loss of the farmers of upward of \$32,000,000,000. If to this we add the decrease in securities, stocks, and bonds of railroads and industrial corporations and the losses in the decline of output in manufacturing and mineral industries, it will be found that under the system pursued of erroneous financing and financing directly contrary to the teachings of such bankers as Reginald McKenna and others of his standing we wiped out about \$50,000,000,000 of values, a staggering loss which well nigh shocked the very life out of the country.

[...]

At the close of the meeting, in which only one day was given to this general discussion of the most tremendous financial problem that this country had ever faced, when days and days might well have

been spent in a careful analysis of the situation, the meeting was closed with the statement by Governor Harding, which we have quoted in the opening paragraph, insisting that nothing should be given out by those in attendance in regard to the discussions that had taken place; and thus the public was to be kept in dense ignorance, knowing nothing except the official statement issued by the committee, and from which the public and the press could get no information worth having as to what was being done or would be done by Federal reserve banks.

We do not know what has become of the 100 copies of this stenographic report of the day's proceedings which were printed for confidential distribution, but the Manufacturers' Record feels that in having secured one copy and in giving this summary of it to its readers it is rendering a service of inestimable value to the Nation. [...]

[End of the editorial from the Manufacturers' Record by Richard H. Edmonds, February 22, 1923. Continuing the same U.S. Congressional Record v64:S4869-4874 from February 28, 1923, the following is from Alabama Senator James Thomas Heflin. – WJ]

[...]

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, the Senator from Idaho has had read into the RECORD a part of the great editorial written by Richard H. Edmonds, the editor of the Manufacturers' Record. That editorial ought to be read by every man and woman in the country. It is a masterful document, written by one of the ablest, cleverest, and most courageous editorial writers in the Republic. He was the first editor of a great magazine to set himself to the task of exposing the conspiracy to bring about destructive deflation in the United States. When hundreds of newspapers in the country were working in concert to prevent the truth of this thing from being known, when they were doing everything in their power to lull the people to sleep at home, suppressing news from the Capitol, and trying to hush up any discussion that would lead to the real truth in the case, Richard H. Edmonds was writing strong, powerful editorials demanding an investigation and bringing to the attention of the public just what he believed had transpired.

[...] Mr. President, it is a difficult thing to have to combat the many influences which are working in the Government to suppress the truth and to cripple and break down those who are trying to disclose the truth to the country.

[...] Mr. President, I know that when I make a fight to have a fair deal for the people with the newspapers of the country I incur the displeasure of that portion of the press which is subsidized. I want to state again that a large portion of the press is not subsidized; it is honest and clean ; but there is a portion of it that is as corrupt as it is possible for a newspaper to be, and I know that I incur the displeasure of that rotten element of the press, but that does not deter me. I owe it to my constituents and I owe it to the country I am trying to serve to keep on fighting here until a fair deal is had for the people of the country. Somebody should tell the truth about it. When a man subscribes for a newspaper, they usually tell him. "You want this paper so that you can keep up with the news. Congress will be in session soon, and you want the paper so that you can keep up with the news of Congress," and thousands of people subscribe to these papers for the purpose of getting the news about the great public questions that are being discussed what the Members of the House are saying, and what the Members of the Senate are saying about the issues of the day and the conduct of the Government.

Mr. President, I have been engaged in the Senate for two years in a fight vital to 110,000,000 American people. But few newspapers have given me a fair deal. Scores of newspapers nestling about these regional reserve banks have attacked me, have written editorials criticizing and condemning me for the fight that I have made. They did not know anything about the fight I was making. They did not know the merits of the cause I was pleading. They were simply doing what they were told to do. They were simply told to fire upon me, to level their broadsides against me; that I was treading close to a dangerous thing, and that if it should be disclosed it would hurt many of those who were enjoying a respectable status at that time; that if I was not stopped the truth would be made known and these people would be discredited. That was the effort that they made, but it did not deter me, Mr. President.

I said on this floor time and time again that there was a conspiracy, a secret meeting held somewhere, I did not know where, to bring about deflation. I said that it did not come of its own accord; that it was prearranged. That statement was denied. These newspaper yelpers of the Federal Reserve Board said, "There is nothing in it." They said that it was a pipe dream; that it could not be substantiated; and I kept on saying that there was a conspiracy. When I was at the high tide of the battle against them in the Senate

the Wall Street Journal was criticizing me, and the New York Journal of Commerce was criticizing me; and when I saw the criticisms coming from that quarter I knew that I was right and that I was moving in the right direction. I knew that they knew that I was heading dangerously near something that they did not want disclosed.

[...] I likened that situation to people sitting in a theater, hundreds of men, women, and children looking at the stage and laughing and being entertained, happy at what was transpiring there, when some one slipped down the aisle and went over to a box and whispered to the distinguished personages there that a bomb was being planted under the building, and that in 15 minutes it would go off; for them to get out while the getting was good; that they gathered up their wraps and coats and hats, and silently stole away; that they had gone hardly a couple of blocks before the bomb went off, the roar was heard for miles, the groans of the dying were heard, and hundreds of people were murdered in the crash.

I said that was what happened under the deflation drive. They deliberately planted this bomb under the business of seventy-odd million people in America, and they touched it off without giving them a moment's notice. The little man, the one-horse farmer, the ten-horse farmer, the blacksmith, the crossroads merchant, the village merchant, the town merchant, the country banker, men in all kinds of business in the common walks of life, were literally slaughtered by that cruel deflation drive, and not a moment's warning was given to any of them. That is precisely what the Federal Reserve Board did.

[FYI: Setting up a "bomb of a news" without a moment's notice and let people react out of fear and panic without having enough time to properly analyze the situation and thus re-acting without thinking straight is the usual method of conspirators to rob people of everything they have (peace, property, freedom, etc.), bit by bit. – WJ]

The Senator from Idaho [Mr. GOODING] has introduced a resolution calling upon the President to have this thing investigated. The President has held the same Federal Reserve Board in office. Governor [William P. G.] Harding did not go off the board until his term expired by law August 9. He held on two years after U.S. President [Warren G.] Harding went into office. He held on during all the time some of us were condemning deflation here in the Senate. I said repeatedly that the President ought to remove him, that unless he condoned what he did and indorsed his policy he ought to get rid of him ; but he did not get rid of him. He did not get rid of him until his term expired under the law and it was disclosed that he could not be confirmed by the Senate if he had been reappointed. The other members are still on the board.

[...] I have contended all along that deflation was cruel, criminal, inexcusable, and indefensible. I still contend that. It was a cut and dried plan to pillage and plunder the American people. God only knows how much money they made out of that steal. Think of it, these men sitting behind closed doors, playing with billions and billions of wealth, and agreeing amongst themselves that they would go out and strike a blow that would cause the destruction of property values by the billions and nobody but themselves and those in the inner circle was to know anything about it.

Do you know, Mr. President, there are men in this Republic who speculate who would have given \$50,000,000 for that information that night. If they could have been told, and I suppose they got the tip, that this thing was going to happen, they would have gone upon the stock exchanges and sold and sold and sold. Senators, when men sell on these exchanges, the lower the price goes, the more money they make, and they would take no risk whatever in selling, because they knew that what was going to happen by the direction of Governor Harding and his board would tumble prices down and down, and they would gather up their profits by the millions. That is what the conspirators did.

President [Woodrow] Wilson was very ill at that time. If I had been President, that deflation policy should never have been pulled off. If I had been President and I had known they intended to pull it off, I would have in a quiet war tried to stop it, and if I could not have stopped it that way, I would have employed sterner means and have been tempted to do as Old Hickory [Andrew] Jackson did in the case of old [Nicholas] Biddle. You know what he told him, do you not? Biddle went to Jackson and wanted to have Congress couple some of his speculative measures with a Government measure and told Jackson that they ought to be put through together. Jackson would not agree to it. Then Biddle said to Jackson; "I will not let your bill pass." Jackson told him that he could not prevent its passage. Biddle said that he could. Then Jackson said to him that was too much power for one man or one concern to have, and he would take it from him; and he did. Then what did old Biddle tell Jackson? He said, "I will contract the currency and produce a panic." And Old Hickory Jackson said to Biddle, "If you do, damn you, I will

hang you." He ought to have been hanged for such a crime. Biddle's panic did not come. The men who conspired and pulled this deflation conspiracy in 1920 were criminals. They destroyed property values by the billions. They swept away in thousands of instances the accumulations of a lifetime. They deserved to be hanged.

Mr. President, that deflation policy drove men mad. Hundreds were driven to death by their own hands. They were good men struggling for an honest livelihood, struggling to support their wives and children, and yet this deflation was produced through the conspiracy held here in Washington, and it brought this crash upon the country, and it dazed and stunned hundreds of these men and drove them mad, and I have said drove them to kill themselves. Why not hang half a dozen conscienceless criminals rather than permit hundreds of men to be driven to death by their own hands or into the insane asylums of the country?

The reason they wanted to suppress me was because I was on a hot trail and they feared that I would disclose to the public the truth of their cruel and criminal conduct and I was interfering with their false theories regarding panics. They were spreading their propaganda over the country in an effort to educate the people that panics could not be prevented, that they would just come anyhow every 5 or 10 years. I knew that that was not true and I said so. It is a falsehood as black as midnight. There is no excuse for a panic in a great Government like ours under the Federal reserve system and our other banking institutions if they are honestly administered. They must be honestly administered.

[...]

Mr. HEFLIN. Here is a copy of an interesting letter, written by Hon. John Skelton Williams to the editor of the Manufacturers' Record, Hon. Richard H. Edmonds, of Baltimore:

MARCH 3, 1923.

DEAR MR. EDMONDS : I thank you for sending me a copy of the letter addressed to you by Acting Governor Platt, of the Federal Reserve Board, in which he pretends to set forth, but really misrepresents, my position at the conference of May 18, 1920, at which I was present during a part of the proceedings.

After the well-merited excoriation which Judge BRAND, of Georgia, publicly administered to this self-same Platt on the floor of the House of Representatives a year or so ago, he "ran to cover" and nothing was heard from him for some time. As you probably know, he is the particular member of the board to whom I referred in my speech before the Georgia Press Association on July 14, 1921, when I said:

Upon another occasion when certain policies were being discussed in the Federal Reserve Board, which were being opposed on the ground that they might result in forcing the failure or retirement from business of many small State banks throughout the country, a certain member of the board, who has never been conspicuous for a knowledge of banking or an adequate comprehension of the difficulties which the country has had to face in the past year, spoke up and said, in effect, *'If this plan means the failure of the small State banks, that need not stop it; in fact, if we can't get rid of the small State banks by any other method, it might be as well to get rid of them that way'*—that is to say, by their failure.

[...]

In his speech before the May 18 conference, in admitting his ignorance of banking matters, Mr. Platt said to the assembly:

I feel a little bit of trepidation before an audience made up exclusively of bankers, because I think I may be subject to a little criticism for not having had a great deal of banking experience. In fact, my actual banking experience is confined chiefly to acting as teller at a few bank elections.

His whole conduct on the board impresses me as confirmatory of that confession. Platt's letter to you is so ill-tempered, so undignified, and so full of misstatements that I doubt whether you will think it worthy of a reply.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Other noteworthy citations:

The business of the country has been robbed to enrich the coffers of financial institutions over the protests of many farseeing and honorable bankers. The profits that Gov. Harding has sought to explain can not be explained. They stand as an immutable evidence of the poverty of his financial direction. The Federal reserve system financed the war; it could not finance the peace. So is the record written; so is it written in shame. Out of our vast resources flowed in endless streams the means to drive back the Hun. Then almost overnight Gov. Harding and his associates decided that the onslaught of approaching economic disaster should not be financed, that the reservoirs should be closed, and decided on a course of action that facilitated disaster. The law itself provided for extraordinary use of credit in case of just such a situation, as the country faced, permitting a lowering of the necessary reserve. Gov. Harding refused to take advantage of that provision. He turned his back on it and faced the other way. What is a reserve for? To be used, of course, when need arises. That is just when Gov. Harding refused to use it. He hoarded the Nation's lifeblood and would not let it circulate.

Last summer, aware of the approaching disaster, John Skelton Williams, then Comptroller of the Currency, pointed out that \$2,000,000,000 in additional credit could be extended without imperiling the reserve position.

– Manufacturers' Record of June 9, 1921, reprinted in the U. S. Congressional Record v61:S5017, [August 15, 1921](#)

But when the powers that be attempted to reduce wages they met fierce resistance at the hands of the labor unions. There was a struggle to the death and the labor unions won. The farmers were not so fortunate. Unorganized, widely separated, without leaders, they were an easy prey. They were deflated promptly, completely, scientifically, unmercifully. One meeting of the powerful Federal Reserve Board--that secret meeting later on uncovered and exposed by Richard H. Edmonds, editor of the Manufacturers' Record, a meeting undoubtedly dictated by those same powers that be--one meeting and the work was done. This explains the desperate condition of agriculture to-day all over the country.

– J. T. Holleman of Atlanta, Georgia, in an article cited in the U.S. Congressional Record v68:H1398 from [January 10, 1927](#)

If we would solve the farm problem we must first determine the cause. On May 18, 1920, 56 men assembled in a room in Washington and secretly changed the credit policy of the Nation. Five of them were members of the Federal Reserve Board, 1 was a Congressman soon to become a member, 1 a counselor for the board, and the remaining 49 were bankers, most of them big bankers. When the 56 sat down in that room the farmers were prosperous ; never more prosperous in all their lives. When the 56 rose from the table the farmers were bankrupt.

– Address of Senator W. B. Pine before the Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma in April 1929, reprinted i

[In this Teaser, the last passages of chapter 66 were replaced by the ones below. – WJ]

Extract from the German Wikipedia:

The worldwide economic crisis of the 1920s and 1930s [known as The Great Depression] began with the New Yorker stock market crash in October 1929. [...]

Even though the real origin of the Great Depression was presented in Congress **multiple times**, history as it is currently written and taught has already forgotten this bit of truth after only a single century. In fact, despite the above Congressional Records the public never really got to know it in the first place. This is a prime example of how very poorly our self-proclaimed intelligent species keeps the truth alive. A lot of honest people of society had to suffer, and many of them even died, only because few bankers wanted to get richer. Considering that none of the responsible people were held accountable for their actions, it clearly shows that our sense of justice and ethics has already been lost a long time ago. Of course, **this sends an invitation to all global criminals to continue their crimes against humanity** because chances are, further cons and deceptions will *not* be investigated either.

Looking at the current events, it is rather obvious that we are dealing with yet another grand conspiracy. And so far, the conspirators do whatever they want with our lives and our economy without having to face any severe consequences for it. In fact, most people even **support** them... What a bizarre world!

– Waldemar Janzen, November 2021