

Cato Policy Report

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“To Be Governed...”

PROTECTIONIST SPUDSIDIES

At Andrew Smith's 1,150-acre potato farm and others like it, millions of pounds of potatoes are piling up in mounds—and their future is uncertain.

The culprit: a decision by Canada's federal government in November to suspend shipments of Prince Edward Island potatoes to the United States—the province's largest export market for the spuds—at the behest of U.S. officials. . . .

“We have learned how to deal with weather and market fluctuations and supply issues and logistics. We deal with that stuff every day,” said Smith, 43, whose farm has been in the family for five generations. “But you cannot plan for government intervention.”

—*Washington Post*, February 5, 2022

SO JUST A RANDOM ABBREVIATION?

Hey Karly, fortunately, DLY does not mean delay. It just means that our train prediction system is unable to predict the arrival time confidently due to trains holding longer than two minutes, trains waiting to begin trips, or during single tracking.

—*Washington Metro on Twitter*, March 28, 2022

GOOD THING THE VOTERS CHOSE THE SOCIALIST OVER THE DICTATOR'S DAUGHTER

When demonstrators picketed roads in Peru's rural hinterland over the rising cost of fuel and fertilizer, President Pedro Castillo might have responded with empathy or dialogue.

Instead, . . . the president reacted Tuesday with a draconian move that has out-

raged and baffled almost the entire country: placing Lima, the capital of 10 million people, which had been almost entirely free of the unrest, under a strict lockdown.

—*Washington Post*, April 7, 2022

CONGRESS SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND ECONOMIC PROBLEM

The House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing is the latest effort by Democratic lawmakers and the Biden administration to demonstrate to voters that they're working to bring down prices at the pump. . . .

“We are here today to get answers from the Big Oil companies about why they are ripping off the American people,” Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), the committee's chairman, will say this morning.

—*Washington Post*, April 6, 2022

LIMITED-GOVERNMENT PARTY PASSES 841 BILLS IN 60 DAYS

Gov. Glenn Youngkin [pushed] Monday to wrap up work on the 841 bills that the General Assembly sent to his desk.

—*Washington Post*, April 11, 2022

THIS COULD BE ABOUT EITHER PARTY

After getting walloped in 2020 and now facing a flurry of departures, the party's House centrists are hunkering down to focus on ground game.

—*Politico on Twitter*, April 6, 2022

THIS IS ALSO CALLED “BUYING A HOUSE”

Small groups of neighborhood volunteers are blocking companies from buying single-family homes, rewriting homeownership

rulebooks to thwart investor purchases of suburban housing. . . .

“They're coming in, and they're basically bullying people out with cash offers,” said Chase Berrier, the association's president.

—*Wall Street Journal*, April 18, 2022

POLITICIZING EVERYTHING

Hobby Lobby and Chick-fil-A are the good guys. Disney and Twitter are the bad guys.

—*Josh Mandel on Twitter*, April 23, 2022

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ASK PRESIDENT TO USURP THEIR AUTHORITY

Liberal House Democrats realized late last year that many of their policy ideas for improving the lives of Americans had little chance of passing through the party's narrow majorities in both chambers, and they began researching ways President Biden could enact similar changes through executive orders.

Their plan now is to push Biden to issue these orders.

—*Washington Post*, March 17, 2022

BIDEN PROPOSES TO CONFISCATE WEALTH OF 700 AMERICANS

The White House will unveil a new minimum tax targeting billionaires as part of its 2023 budget Monday, proposing a tax on the richest 700 Americans for the first time. . . .

The White House plan would mandate billionaires to pay a tax rate of at least 20 percent on their full income, or the combination of traditional forms of wage income and whatever they may have made in unrealized gains, such as higher stock prices.

—*Washington Post*, March 26, 2022