Questions Bill Crosby and Jim DeAngelis Received
prior to Bob Woodward's Session on January 27, 2021
Organized Chronologically by the date received[1]

Received on Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Seth Hoyt:
Is Bob writing a new book? I worry about safety of elected officials. Is there chatter of assassin attempts? How will HLS, Secret Service, FBI, etc plan for a major attack? Still want to know connection btw Trump and Putin. Odds on Biden serving out full term?

Lee Jampol:
In view of what happened last week it would be interesting to review our class predictions on the outcome Nov 3 and to talk with those who predicted that it would end up in Congress and on the streets.

George Manger:
What does Trump's political future hold? Will he be able to hold his base?

Gordon Bear:
On January 11th, writing in The New York Times, the op-ed columnist Jennifer Senior explained much of then-President Trump's behavior - including his refusal to accept his loss in the election and his attendant anger at those failed to overturn it, even his hitherto totally loyal vice president - as the predictable consequences of his "malignant narcissism."

Was it really that simple? Does Trump's personality explain his behavior?

Robert King Bingham:
What are the chances that the Biden administration will quickly enact a stand-alone DACA cure such as what I propose in THE DAY below?

DACA's limitations need a cure. This is it.
Published by THE DAY, New London, CT, December 14. 2020 12:01AM

Unfortunately, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is only a temporary immigration status ("deferral of removal") that the Department of Homeland Security granted in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion to those who came to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday and have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007 up to the present time. See Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) site at **https://www.uscis.gov/archive/frequently-asked-questions#what_is_DACA.**

[1] Completed after the session and shared at Post-Mortem meeting on January 29, 2020 by Jim DeAngelis

"An individual who has received deferred action is authorized to be present in the United States, and is therefore considered to be lawfully present during the period deferred action is in effect (generally 2 years)." Id.

However, this discretionary relief from removal "does not confer lawful status upon (a DACA recipient) nor does it excuse any previous or subsequent periods of unlawful presence," thus Congress needs to provide a path to lawful permanent residence for DACA recipients and other long-term undocumented residents who came here before June 15, 2007, even if a judge "**brings DACA back**." (c.f. The Day headline, December 5, 2020).

In its present form, section 249(a) of the Act can confer lawful permanent residence upon a successful applicant who entered the United States before "January 1, 1972," which clearly is a useless obsolete date today that should be replaced by the date June 15, 2007 to accommodate longtime residents and "Dreamers."

This suggested small fix to section 249(a) should be attractive to both parties in Congress because of its simplicity and the broad humanitarian relief accorded (with entitlement to a "green card"). Eligibility for U.S. citizenship would also follow in five years after gaining lawful permanent residence, or in three years thereafter if married to a U.S. citizen, under welcoming Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization processes.

Robert Kim Bingham Sr. is a retired Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorney. He lives in Salem, CT.

> Here's a reaction to this piece from another about-to-retire attorney who specializes in immigration issues and representing people who have issues with the US government's laws and regulations:
>
> > *So how about making relief for dreamers statutory is the idea espoused here. The suggestion is to simply have Congress change one date in section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.*
> >
> > *Hardly realistic, it is an interesting idea . Congress finds it difficult to agree on the day of the week.*
> >
> > Here is one suggested modification to Bingham's question:
> >
> > > *Bob Woodward may have some important observations on how will Biden deal with the xenophobic restrictions imposed or sought to be imposed on immigrants, refugees, and Dreamers by Trump?* .

Ted Garrett:
This is my question for Bob Woodward, which may be overtaken in part by events when Bob speaks on January 27:

What is your view of impeachment and conviction of Trump? In particular, do you think it is appropriate to impeach and convict Trump to show that his conduct cannot be condoned and to prevent him for running for office again? Or do you take the view that it is time to move since Trump is no longer in power?

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Bill Cole:
Let me first identify myself as a Conservative Republican who has always felt that I was far less liberal than most of my fellow Class of '65ers. Since the time of Eisenhower, I felt at home in the party of free trade, strong defense through close international alliances, free enterprise, and public decency.

However, the coming of Donald Trump seemed to me a repudiation of all of these traditional Republican values.

Thus, I would like to hear from Bob his explanation for how the party I loved was hijacked by a movement that stood for values that seem to me antithetical to all that the GOP stood for. The party always had, in its fringes the followers of Joe McCarthy and Patrick Buchanan, but it was never taken over by them until recently. Why did this happen in 2016?

Marne Obernauer:
Is Bob writing a third book on Trump?

Christopher Kinney:
What has been your biggest surprise since Jan 5?

Friday, January 15, 2021

Dennis Mack:
Did our free and open society die in the last three months?

What is on your list of near catastrophes during the invasion of the Capitol (e.g., the guard who decoyed the pursuing invaders away from the unprotected entrance to the Senate, the box of electoral ballots almost left behind; the capture and/or execution of members of Congress)?

Why, nine days after the attack on the Capitol, have the Capitol Police given no public briefings about the attack to address the issue of apparent complicity of some Capitol Police with the invaders?

Is race the principal reason that authorities ignored the warnings of Black officers about white nationalism among the Capitol police?

What plans do federal, state, and local law officials have for dealing with the number of off-duty police officers and first responders who were involved in the attack?

What is the best explanation for the failure of the Department of Defense to authorize the use of nearby National Guard units to support the Capitol Police?

What is the best estimate of the number of people in the Capitol police, the Congress, and the Administration who were complicit with the violent elements of the protest?

Is there any stomach in Congress to change the laws that restrain federal officials from monitoring domestic terrorist groups?

Has the claim that law enforcement handled political protest marches in the summer more harshly than the invasion of the Capitol had any impact upon center right politicians?

Do we have any sense whether the invaders of the Capitol have declined in relative economic well-being and social position compared to their parents?

Around what governing agenda could the protestors unite to organize a government rather than to destroy one?

Why did such a great percentage of Republican representatives take the counterfactual position that there had been substantial voter fraud?

Has there been any indication how the Republicans in Congress who challenged Biden's electoral votes will deal with Biden? Has there been a suggestion that they will boycott meetings he attends?

What sources of money funded the January 6 protest on the Mall and subsequent protests around the country?

Who are the advertisers on the Alt-Right and Conspiracy Theory websites? Is there a campaign to help inadvertent advertisers to avoid those sites?

How many people are involved in right wing militias and other anti-government groups? How many people are involved in left wing militias and anti-government groups?

What are the reasons for different degrees of surveillance in the US of foreign terrorism and domestic terrorism?

Was there any discussion of whether an acting head of a Cabinet level department who was not confirmed by the Senate could count among those who with the Vice President could invoke suspension of the president's powers under Section 3 of the 25th Amendment?

What proposals for gaining legitimacy of the Bidden-Harris government are there when perhaps one-third of the electorate rejects the election results?

What Trump appointees resisted sharing information with the Biden transition team?

What departments did not prepare detailed status reports for the Biden transition team?

Why were so few Biden appointments to cabinet level posts confirmed by the Senate before Inauguration Day. How does the number of confirmed appointments compare to prior transitions?

Did the Trump administration complete security clearance procedures for any Biden nominees?

How does the level of pre-Inauguration departures in the Trump Administration compare to departures during prior transfers of power?

How can Biden carry on relations with China, North Korea, and Saudi Arabia if it does not get a full detailing of the executive understandings Trump had with those countries?

Are journalists covering politics more fearful for their safety today? In what ways? Why?

What restorative role do newspapers have when people will only accept their own version of facts.?

During past periods of No-Nothings, anti-Immigrant, and anti-Catholic movements, how long did it take to defang such past movements? Did we ever put to rest McCarthyism?

Is there support for amendments to disclosure laws that would eliminate or reduce dark money in US politics?

After the Trump years, is sunlight no longer the best disinfectant of American political society?

Are there any reports of efforts to hire back any federal civil service employees who left during the Trump administration because of pressures on them to violate law?

Will the Trump Post Office lease now become a financial drain on Trump Organization resources?

Assuming Trump is not convicted on the impeachment, how much can the Biden administration limit expenditures for the protection of Trump? Will government funded protections continue for adult members of Trump's family?

Do you foresee a role for Mark Burnett to restore the image of Donald Trump or any of his family?

What is the likelihood that any Trump Administration official will be penalized for having failed to comply with the Federal Records Act?

Trump does not like keeping records of his actions. Is it likely that people in his administration may have kept their own personal files of their observations or interactions with Trump and that they might release them?

Some report that at the local level the Republican Party is totally realigned. Can Goldwater Republicans find a place in the realigned Republican Party?

Is there any risk that a Georgia county election official will refuse to certify the electoral result in that county in order to prevent state certification of the election of two Democrats to the Senate and thus create a Constitutional crisis while maintaining for the time the Republican majority in the Senate with power to hold up the confirmation of Biden appointees?

January 16, 2021

[From Y'65 Google Group] -- Dan Denison (David Roscoe's focused suggestion noted in Blue.):
Since the change of administration is all over but the shouting, I think that this group should find something more interesting to share opinions on (and hopefully get away from so many back and forth personal attacks.) This is a subject that does not reflect knee jerk left right bias. There are China Hawks on both right (the Navarro Pillsbury gang) and on the left (The Squad). The Wall

Street dominated middle (center left & center right) is far more accommodating, worried about self-inflicted wounds. See the link below. I believe that we are in a long term economic (and somewhat territorial) war that began with Xi's inauguration and his Chinese Dream speech, which was somewhat parallel to MAGA rhetoric and forecast a long battle. It is pretty clear that Xi aspires to an empire similar to the 19th century British Empire, and it is not at all clear that he can be stopped. The US emerged from the war of 1812, with a treaty granting neutrality and some compromise of competing territorial ambitions, but it was hardly a victory. The French and English were fighting a trade war with pirate ships (Privateers) rather than with tariffs, and the newborn US was sustaining collateral damage. China's external ambitions can be viewed by its recently fraught relationship with Australia, and its steadily moving takeover of Greenland's resources (which presumably inspired Trump's clumsy purchase offer). And recent Trump moves have recognized the invasion of Chinese colonists disguised as graduate students, much to the dismay of academic institutions relying on those tuition payments, but have focused on only a small and egregious part of the wave. It is very unclear what it would take to make a significant impact in the long term economic war. We may not be able to do any better now than we did in 1814.

The Biden administration will be able to reverse some Trump era Executive Orders, although some such moves will face court challenges by MAGA interests (e.g. immigration, health care, and environmental protection). Foreign policy is really an area in which the legislature has granted great independent authority to the President. It should not be difficult to restore the old status quo regarding NATO, WHO. and climate change, but China is a different beast. An area I would really like to read opinions on from the various points of view represented here is the subject of Taiwan.

It seems quite likely to me that sometime in the next four years, Xi will undertake a Crimea-style takeover there, recruiting internal sympathizers there to start a Reformation rebellion, and then answering their call for mainland ground troops to support their cause. How should the US react? Send in troops and/or materiel to support the government there? Invoke a total embargo on trade to and from China? Something else dramatic? Or wring our hands and impose ineffective "sanctions" like we did for Crimea, figuring we do not really have a horse in that race?

I am hoping that I can elicit some opinions &/or questions from the regulars here. And maybe when we have shared our thoughts, and there is a diversity of opinion, our Leadership may want to involve Bob Woodward on the 27th or maybe even Warren Rothman.

January 20, 2021

John Todd:
Two longer-term issues that interest me are the role of money in elections and gerrymandering. Do you see any appetite for reforms in those areas in the executive or legislative branches, and what reforms might emerge in those areas?

Jim DeAngelis:
Biden is of our generation. He has spent essentially all of his adult life at the highest levels of our national government. He, like you, has had interactions with most, if not all, of the people in key positions of government during those times. You have written about Biden and have probably had some direct interactions with him over the years.
If he were to ask you to name the key administrative/political qualities he should seek to emulate as personified in the people with whom you both have had interactions, what qualities and which people would you suggest? Why?

Dave Hall:
I think there are a number of issues that can be addressed. The financial burden on the country for President Biden will be a real challenge.

Duane Campbell:
With virtually all social media blocking political views they don't like and legacy media refusing to cover some stories (eg PBS, among others, with Hunter Biden), what will happen to the First Amendment issues like freedom of speech (in a broader sense than Congress shall not) and freedom of a press that tens of millions no longer respect or believe?

Ralph Protsik:
Bob, one of Trump's last actions was to order Christopher Miller to replace the current NSA general counsel with Michael Ellis, a Devin Nunes sycophant. *The Post* said this about the appointment: "The move is significant because the role of general counsel at the country's largest intelligence agency is a civil service position, not a political role, meaning it could be difficult for the Biden administration to remove Ellis. The strategy of trying to install political loyalists into career positions is known as 'burrowing' in the government." Why should we be concerned about Trump loyalists being "burrowed" into career positions within the Biden administration? What harm can Ellis do?

January 22, 2021

Chris Cooke (to y65...@googlegroups.com): Turning for a moment from the burning question of how the election loser lost it, the next big event in The Life of Donald Trump will be his impeachment trial in the Senate for Incitement of Insurrection.

In 1986 the Senate adopted procedural rules for impeachment trials, *i.e., Procedure and Guidelines for Impeachment Trials in the United States Senate*, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CDOC-99sdoc33/html/CDOC-99sdoc33.htm. A more concise version is, *Rules of Procedure and Practice in the Senate when Sitting on Impeachment Trials*; https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/pdf/3_1986SenatesImpeachmentRules.pdf

Under the rules the Respondent - former President Trump - may answer the articles of impeachment in person or through counsel; he has the right to defend himself; and he may personally testify.

My question for the group is, What do you think Trump will do at the Senate Trial? I think there are four choices:

1. He will not attend, will not defend and will ignore the trial
2. He will not attend but will be defended at the trial by his legal team.
3. He will attend the trial with his legal team but will not testify.
4. He will attend the trial with his legal team and will testify.

Barry Preston: What parts of the Trump administration's policies should the Biden administration build on?

Michael Cole: I'd be interested in hearing Bob's thoughts about the likelihood that Trump's sway over Republican officeholders will be markedly diminished now that he no longer has the power of the presidency and has further tarnished his reputation as a result of inciting the assault on the Capitol. In addition, as one who has exhaustively investigated Trump during his four years in office, does Bob expect more explosive revelations to come out which will further erode his future viability as a power on the right? Bottom line: in the near-term future, will the Republican party remain the party of Trump or will followers of Trump become much more isolated and those who hold more traditional Republican views and values return to dominance?

Bob Carpenter: What is your prognostication with respect to Trump's Impeachment trial?

January 23, 2021

Dennis Mack: Among my questions was a one that seemed simple – even lightweight - but goes to my belief for a major restructuring of the tools of our homeland security. I stated it as: What are the reasons for different degrees of surveillance in the US of foreign terrorism and domestic terrorism?

The initial answer is simple. In order to protect the civil rights of Americans, statutory law proscribes the use of the tools acceptable for combating foreign terrorism in the battle against domestic terrorism. In fact, there has been no battle against domestic terrorism. The government does not collect good statistics. We have to rely upon the efforts of NGO's. It may be time to revisit those decisions.

I invite you to look at the interview on last night's episode of Real Time with Bill Maher. Frank Figliuzzi outlines several of the issues and states that they handicap law enforcement in combating domestic terrorism.

Perhaps after you listen to his argument, you may want to advance some variation of my question on Wednesday. It may become one of the most important issues of the next several years.

David H. Knight: will the media, to maintain their ratings, eventually turn on biden and harris to maintain their ratings, now that trump is gone? it seems to me that the media has been and still is in a feeding frenzy of some sort. any thoughts would be appreciated. many thanks to you for your support of our yale class over the years and best wishes for I assume your first book on the Biden presidency.

Michael Hofmayer: "Is it fair to call Trump's actions throughout his presidency culminating in the Capitol Riot a classic 'self-coup' in the tradition of Napoleon III, Maduro, and Erdogan as Fiona Hill does in the January 11 issue of *Politico*?" [https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/01/11/capitol-riot-self-coup-trump-fiona-hill-457549]

Very late arriving questions: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Steve Clark: David, please Ask Bob why he stole moderator Robert Costa away from the regular PBS Friday night Washington week in review. Please tell Costa that we miss him -- just as we were getting used to him succeeding Gwen Ifill. [I would suggest that David or Dennis work Don's question into their introductory remarks.]

John Shank: What is your take on Trump's attempt to use the DOJ to invalidate the Georgia (and other states') vote count?) How do Pak, Barr, and Clark all fit into this? [If Bill agrees, we'll try working this question into one of our themes.]

Don Ogilvie: What does Bob think about the tradeoff between spending precious time Impeaching Trump versus passing Biden's immediate priorities! [If Bill agrees, we'll try working this question into one of our themes.]

Bill Stewart (Former Republican): [While this set of questions is useful, we've had many other classmates pose questions that could lead to answers to all but the fourth question, which, if Bill agrees, we can try to fit into our theme of "Trump."

- What happens to the Republican Party?
- Will moderates try to throw Trump out?
- Will Trump try to hold rallies in primaries to support his base?
- Will he form a new political party or movement?
- Will he try to run in 2024?

Perry Teillon: I would like Bob's views on the filibuster: Should it be retained as is or abolished in whole or in part. I cannot make up my mind as what is the best way to go. [Given McConnell's short-term concession on this matter, this question may be moot for the time being. We also have a similar question from another classmate]

Duncan Pollock: Given the competing demands in his own party, and the unhappy republican electorate, how can President Biden fulfill his unity pledge? [The thrust of this question is very similar to others that we have and to our draft introduction to this theme – e.g. neither party is currently a homogeneously ideological!]

Shaun Byrnes: The past four years saw "disinformation" spread widely on social media, whether Twitter or Facebook, as well as on some major news outlets, Fox in particular, and became a serious threat to our democracy, as the storming of the Capitol showed. Accurate information -- truth -- is critical to sustaining relationships, successful businesses, diplomacy, and our democracy.

What do you think can be done to ensure social media and news outlets provide accurate information without infringing on First Amendment rights? How can Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube be held responsible when they publish malicious lies? [While we have other similar questions that seek Bob's answers to Shaun's questions, I prefer this question's "even-handed" wording to at least one of the questions we've got. Using this question will probably depend on how the session is going when this theme comes up.]

Mal Douglas: Given the presence of current and former service members in the mob on 1/6, how pervasive do you think far right elements are in the US military and law enforcement cadres across the nation?

To follow, does the US need to launch a massive dragnet to identify and weed out these elements?

John Schenck: Who has the trickiest job now, Joe Biden or Mitch McConnell?

From Y'65 Google Group -- Duncan Bremer: What is your preferred outcome of the Senate trial of Trump?

Since he cannot be removed from office, the only remedy apparently available in the event of conviction is disqualification from holding future office.
Would you prefer:

1. No conviction.
2. Conviction, but no disqualification.
3. Conviction and disqualification
4. Conviction with Presidential Pardon (with or without disqualification)?

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Karl Schonborn Are any of Bob's qstns so far personal, besides political/abstract?
If some of the former are allowed, I'd like to add one:

As a part-time writer as a prof and a full-time writer since retirement, any tips on dealing with the requisite constant sitting (besides stand/sit desks and under-the-desk ellipticals) and - way tougher - social isolation?