

May 6, 2015

Kevin Williamson says we got lucky at the jihadi shootout in Garland, Texas. *Of course he was a convict.*

Elton Simpson was the first figure identified in the latest eruption from the Religion of Peace — an attempted massacre at an exhibition of anti-Islamist cartoons in suburban Garland, Texas, which ended in the shooting of Simpson and his coconspirator, because Texas is where terrorists go to get out-gunned at an art show. Simpson and his pal are as dead as a tuna casserole — in Texas, we shoot back.

We got lucky when luck wasn't what we needed.

Simpson was, like the overwhelming majority of murderers and most of those who commit serious violent crimes, already known to the authorities. He had been investigated by the FBI on the suspicion that he was attempting to travel to Somalia to engage in jihad. He was convicted of lying to the FBI in that episode, and sentenced to . . . probation. The average sentence for a tax-related crime in these United States is 31 months in a federal penitentiary, but for attempting to join up with a gang of savages who are merrily beheading, torturing, enslaving, and raping their way around the world? Probation, and damned little subsequent oversight, apparently.

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... Federal authorities weren't doing their job on 9/11. They weren't doing their job before the attack in Garland, either. No, nobody can stop every crime or detect every criminal, much less every jihadist. But this one had a great big flashing neon sign over his head reading "terrorist."

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Walter Jacobson of Legal Insurrection says another attack on Scott Walker boomerangs.

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Walker doesn't have that baggage.

You know what the biggest surprise in Walker's financial status is? SEARS still exists!

Paul Mirengoff calls Marilyn Mosby, Baltimore prosecutor a grandstanding hypocritical ideologue.

Alan Dershowitz, the famous defense lawyer, has called the case against the six Baltimore officers involved in the death of Freddie Gray "a show trial." The actions of prosecutor Marilyn Mosby "had nothing to do with justice," but instead amounted to "crowd control," Dershowitz said in remarks reported by the Daily Caller.

With regard to the second-degree murder charges against Caesar Goodson, Dershowitz stated that "there's no plausible, hypothetical, conceivable case for murder under the facts as we now know them." At most, there may be a case for involuntary manslaughter.

Dershowitz believes that, having overplayed its hand, the prosecution is unlikely to obtain any convictions. And if even if it does, there's a good possibility the convictions will be reversed on appeal.

Dershowitz compared the case of the Baltimore six with that of George Zimmerman. In that case, Dershowitz accused the prosecutor of overcharging Zimmerman and argued that she should be disbarred for unethical behavior. As we all remember, Zimmerman was acquitted.

Speaking of the Zimmerman case, Chuck Ross reports that after Zimmerman's acquittal, Marilyn Mosby denounced the verdict during a protest rally at the federal courthouse in Baltimore. Her husband, city council member Nick Mosby, went even further, calling for a boycott of Florida businesses.

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Jonathan Tobin comments on the indictments and claims it's no way to fix America's cities.

... It goes without saying that the plight of those trapped in inner cities with failing schools and dysfunctional economies are right to want change. But no matter how Freddie Gray was killed, nothing in this case changes the fact that cities like Baltimore have been governed by the political left and often by minority politicians for decades. Racism is part of the reality of American history. But the collapse of these cities is the fruit of a failed liberal government project. Liberals and Democrats point to the Baltimore riots as the justification for a renewal of

the same big spending policies that have already repeatedly failed. Nor will an attempt to shoehorn isolated incidents of police misbehavior into a general narrative of racism that makes it hard for law enforcement to work bring peace to neighborhoods. That's especially true of those that badly need police to defend the safety and property of citizens beset more by crime than a notional oppression that has little connection to their lives.

The danger here is not just that justice is always sacrificed when mobs exercise influence over politicians who fear to anger them (such as Baltimore's mayor who called earlier this week for giving thugs "space to destroy). It's that a productive dialogue about how to expand economic opportunity and improve education — the only factors that can heal broken cities — is being drowned in a sea of misleading rhetoric about race and police violence.

Editors of the Chicago Tribune have similar thoughts.

No one could accuse Baltimore state's attorney Marilyn Mosby of dragging her feet on the decision to file charges over the death of Freddie Gray, who suffered a fatal spinal injury in police custody on April 12.

Mosby got the report from an internal police department investigation on Thursday and the results of an autopsy on Friday morning. Within hours, she was standing on the courthouse steps, announcing charges against six police officers. Four of the officers are charged with homicide counts, ranging from involuntary manslaughter to second-degree murder.

Mosby bypassed a grand jury, declaring unflinchingly that she had found probable cause to file the charges herself. She batted away a call for her to step aside and let a special prosecutor handle the case because her husband is a Baltimore city councilman. ...

... In last year's election, Mosby, 35, unseated the incumbent state's attorney by promising to hold police accountable. She said unabashedly that her goal was to "reform the criminal justice system."

Four months into the job, Mosby the prosecutor is under considerable pressure to deliver on the promise made by Mosby the politician.

The officers are innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. It's a very high bar. How will Baltimore — or America — react if prosecutors come up short? What if the officers are not guilty?

This case needs to be about what happened between Freddie Gray and the six police officers who interacted with him on April 12, not about righting the entire criminal justice system. The stakes are high enough already.

Victor Davis Hanson writes on CA's preventable drought.

The present four-year California drought is not novel — even if President Barack Obama and California governor Jerry Brown have blamed it on man-made climate change.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, California droughts are both age-old and common. Predictable California dry spells — like those of 1929–34, 1976–77, and 1987–92 — are more likely result from poorly understood but temporary changes in atmospheric pressures and ocean temperatures.

What is new is that the state has never had 40 million residents during a drought — well over 10 million more than during the last dry spell in the early 1990s. Much of the growth is due to massive and recent immigration.

A record one in four current Californians was not born in the United States, according to the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California. Whatever one's view on immigration, it is ironic to encourage millions of newcomers to settle in the state without first making commensurately liberal investments for them in water supplies and infrastructure.

Sharp rises in population still would not have mattered much had state authorities just followed their forbearers' advice to continually increase water storage. ...

National Review

In Garland, We Got Lucky

How much more obvious does a terrorist need to be?

by Kevin D. Williamson

Of course he was a convict.

Elton Simpson was the first figure identified in the latest eruption from the Religion of Peace — an attempted massacre at an exhibition of anti-Islamist cartoons in suburban Garland, Texas, which ended in the shooting of Simpson and his coconspirator, because Texas is where terrorists go to get out-gunned at an art show. Simpson and his pal are as dead as a tuna casserole — in Texas, we shoot back.

We got lucky when luck wasn't what we needed.

Simpson was, like the overwhelming majority of murderers and most of those who commit serious violent crimes, already known to the authorities. He had been investigated by the FBI on the suspicion that he was attempting to travel to Somalia to engage in jihad. He was convicted of lying to the FBI in that episode, and sentenced to . . . *probation*. The average sentence for a tax-related crime in these United States is 31 months in a federal penitentiary, but for attempting to join up with a gang of savages who are merrily beheading, torturing, enslaving, and raping their way around the world? Probation, and damned little subsequent oversight, apparently.

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Set aside the question of jihadist terrorism for the moment. In the case of plain-old murder, the overwhelming majority of crimes are committed by people with prior felony charges. Consider New York City, which under the new Sandinista regime of Bill de Blasio is receding into the sort of bloody anarchy associated with the mayoralty of David Dinkins, whose unique combination of fecklessness and laziness was the subject of a recent encomium from Hillary Rodham Clinton — he made “an indelible impact on New York,” she said, which is one way to describe the enormous stack of New Yorkers’ corpses, 2,245 of them in a single year, that piled up on his watch. There’s precious little reason for the murders New York has. Murder is not, generally speaking, an entry-level offense. In a New York Times study of New York murder cases, some 90 percent of the killers had prior criminal records. The same is broadly true of other large U.S. cities, both high-crime cities and low-crime cities. We know who the violent offenders are, and yet we do . . . nothing.

The explanation here is fairly simple: laziness. It is very difficult to enforce the law on outlaws, but very easy to enforce the law on law-abiding citizens. As my colleague Charles C. W. Cooke reports, those who are flying legally with guns through New York and New Jersey airports are routinely arrested, even though they have committed no crime. Make a mistake on the paperwork when you are buying a gun legally — when you are trying to comply with the law — and you might very well find yourself in handcuffs.

But in murder-happy Chicago, police seize a great many illegal guns while authorities prosecute practically nobody for the crime of possessing illegal guns. The ratio of criminals put away for illegal guns to illegal guns seized is minuscule, and Chicago refers fewer federal gun violations for prosecution than any other city. (Los Angeles has similar numbers; the local prosecutors’ line — that this is to keep the cases in state courts where stiffer penalties can be handed down — is unsubstantiated to say the least, given the actual rate of prosecution.) But get caught with a legally owned handgun five feet past where your permit allows and you will end up sitting beside some former Illinois governor in a prison cell.

If enforcing the law on jackass teen-age gangsters in Chicago is difficult, it is much more difficult to enforce the law on an aspiring international jihadist. But — and it is a crime that this needs to be written — that is *exactly* where we should be focusing our efforts.

There is one and only one reason that an aspiring al-Qaeda bomber or ISIS beheader such as Elton Simpson should be walking the streets of these United States a free man: so that the FBI can follow him. We have aggressive domestic surveillance on a dozen different fronts — from the IRS to the SEC to the TSA, to say nothing of whatever it is that the spooks are really up to — but nobody could be bothered to keep an eye on a fellow known to federal authorities to be looking for a plum gig with Bin Laden, Inc. For Pete’s sake, the guy seems to have been on Twitter talking up “#texasattack” before the . . . *Texas attack*. Where was the FBI? No doubt still on the hunt for those angry Christian right-wing militia extremists who keep not attacking anything other than unlucky squirrels in rural Idaho.

This is some weak stuff, feds.

The only law-enforcement officials doing their jobs in this mess were the Garland locals, who exhibited courage and marksmanship.

Doing probation and parole the right way is hard work, but it is essential work. Incarceration only gets us so far — as a matter of practical reality, we are not going to lock up every violent offender forever, nor should we. There is no reliable way of knowing which offenders are likely to commit other crimes, but there are categories of offenders that deserve higher levels of

surveillance and management: those who offend against children, particularly sex offenders of the sort whose crimes often are habitual; those who are involved in gangs or organized crime; those who have committed crimes that are particularly dramatic or outrageous, such as those involving torture; and — right at the top of the list — those involved in terrorism, even if only tangentially.

We got lucky in Garland, but we needn't — mustn't — rely on luck. (As the IRA told Margaret Thatcher after its failed attempt to assassinate her: "We only have to be lucky once. You will have to be lucky always.") We have professionals for this sort of thing. Yes, it is tons of work to keep an eye on sundry peripatetic villains, and yes, in many cases that laborious effort will produce nothing that is going to earn any fed or local cop a plaque on his wall or a commendation. But we give these police agencies princely budgets and resplendently compensated managers, along with remarkable investigatory powers and other generous resources, to do that job.

So do the damned job.

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Legal Insurrection

[Another attack on Scott Walker boomerangs](#)

by William A. Jacobson

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The Daily News does the hit on Walker, from the angle of it proving he’s not really a [fiscal conservative](#):

“Owe, no!

2016 hopeful Scott Walker has tens of thousands of dollars in credit card debt, owing money to a list of banks and stores including Sears and Barclays, a new report alleges.”

Hello, it’s SEARS!

The Daily Beast actually puts it in proper context, [Scott Walker Is Just Like You! In Debt](#):

Scott Walker owes Sears up to \$50,000.

According to his most recent financial disclosure forms, the governor owed between \$10,000 and \$100,000 to credit card companies in 2014. One of the cards listed is a Barclay Card, and the other is a Sears MasterCard.

“Over the years, the governor has given \$370,000 of his salary back to taxpayers,” emailed AshLee Strong, a spokesperson for Walker’s Our American Revival PAC. “He has two kids in college, parents who live with him, a mortgage, car payments, and small credit card use. All in all, pretty ordinary stuff.”...

The Boston Globe [noted](#) that Walker has the lowest net worth of any serious presidential contender: -\$72,500.

That’s vastly lower than the next lowest, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who clocks in at \$330,507....

With his negative net-worth, Walker could be the anti-Romney—and then some. Most Americans are much more familiar with hefty credit card debt than they are with dressage.

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Power Line

Marilyn Mosby: hypocrite, grandstander, ideologue

by Paul Mirengoff

[Alan Dershowitz](#), the famous defense lawyer, has called the case against the six Baltimore officers involved in the death of Freddie Gray “a show trial.” The actions of prosecutor Marilyn Mosby “had nothing to do with justice,” but instead amounted to “crowd control,” Dershowitz said in remarks reported by the Daily Caller.

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Dershowitz believes that, having overplayed its hand, the prosecution is unlikely to obtain any convictions. And if even if it does, there’s a good possibility the convictions will be reversed on appeal.

Dershowitz compared the case of the Baltimore six with that of George Zimmerman. In that case, Dershowitz accused the prosecutor of overcharging Zimmerman and argued that she should be disbarred for unethical behavior. As we all remember, Zimmerman was acquitted.

Speaking of the Zimmerman case, [Chuck Ross](#) reports that after Zimmerman’s acquittal, Marilyn Mosby denounced the verdict during a protest rally at the federal courthouse in Baltimore. Her husband, city council member Nick Mosby, went even further, calling for a boycott of Florida businesses.

Either the Mosbys don’t understand the concept of self defense or they are demagogues. Maybe both.

Marilyn Mosby also had plenty to say about the Ferguson case, in which officer Darren Wilson acted in self-defense against Michael Brown. According to Ross, during a panel discussion last December, she called the local prosecutor’s handling of that case “problematic” and “questionable.” “We have to question the motives,” she declared, while strongly implying that racial dynamics were at play.

Given the speed with which Mosby brought charges against the Baltimore six case, the strong likelihood that she has overcharged, her grandstanding to the mob, and her marriage to a West Baltimore politician whose interests lie with throwing the book at the six officers, I think we have to start questioning her motives. As Mosby would put it, racial dynamics may well be at play.

There’s a final twist. In the Ferguson case, Mosby called for a special prosecutor to take the place of the local one. But in the Baltimore case, she has rejected bringing in a special prosecutor notwithstanding the potential for a conflict of interest that stems from the fact that her husband’s political interests are served by coming down with maximum impact on the police officers.

In rejecting calls for a special prosecutor, Mosby stated, “The people of Baltimore City elected me and there is no accountability with a special prosecutor.” But the people of Ferguson elected

prosecutor Bob McCulloch six times, and a special prosecutor in the Ferguson case would have had “no accountability.”

Marilyn Mosby, it appears, is a hypocrite, an ideologue, and a political grandstander. It may well be that one or more of the Baltimore six deserves to be prosecuted. But Alan Dershowitz is right to be concerned that Mosby’s actions have nothing to do with “deserve” and that she wants to conduct a show trial.

Contentions

Baltimore’s Indictments and How Not to Fix America’s Cities

by Jonathan S. Tobin

Baltimore got the celebration this afternoon that many in Ferguson, Missouri longed for last summer and fall. The decision of Baltimore’s State’s Attorney to indict all the police officers connected with the death of Freddie Gray while in their custody turned demonstrations about the case into street parties today. The announcement that the cops had been charged with the most serious charges possible and faced decades in prison was exactly what the city needed to restore the peace that was disrupted by violent riots earlier in the week. But even as the nation sighs in relief at the prospect of calm in Baltimore, the upcoming trial and the ongoing debate about the significance of the case may raise more questions than can be answered by the indictment of six officers. If, as may happen, the officers are not convicted, the prospect of violence will be great. Nor is it likely that much light will be shed in the debate about the future of troubled urban areas like Baltimore or law enforcement in the rush to jail the cops in the case that has given new life to a largely misleading narrative of racism.

Unlike in Ferguson, protesters need no longer demand that police accused of a role in the death of a young black man be arrested and indicted. State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby immediately became a media heroine when she gave demonstrators and pundits calling for quick justice what they wanted during the course of a lengthy address that blasted the accused for their conduct.

Mosby handled her press conference ably. But the haste with which the state’s attorney charged the officers and her choice to avoid using going through the grand jury process, leaves open the possibility that her decision had more to do with politics and the need to keep the peace than justice. The multiplicity of charges as well as the second-degree murder count also makes it likely that she is hoping to offer a plea to some of the officers in order to convict others. The guilty should be punished severely. Yet it remains to be seen whether she has overcharged the police. But just as the accused are entitled to a presumption of innocence, so, too, must the country hope that the evidence exists to support the accusations of murder. If not, then Mosby is earning temporary applause that will eventually blow up in her face as well as that of the rest of the city.

Looking beyond the fate of these individual officers, the danger here is that the case of Freddie Gray will, regardless of the evidence, become a rallying cry against police around the country as well as feeding often false charges of racism.

This week’s riot has set off an ocean of commentary about the fate of the inner cities and renewed the debate about the extent to which government can solve the problems of cities like Baltimore. Some of these exchanges have been thoughtful. But many have been absurd. The idea that [calling rioters “thugs” is evidence of racism](#) shows how far the discussion of race has

been debased by a debilitating political correctness. Al Sharpton's [call for the nationalization of police](#), Michael Moore's [demand that they be disarmed](#) can be dismissed as fodder for the MSNBC crowd and not much more. N.D.B. Connolly's [New York Times op-ed](#) in which he raised the specter of slavery to depict Baltimore — a city with a black mayor and state's attorney and an integrated police force — to be a bastion of racism highlighted the way the left hopes to parlay this tragedy and any others it can rope into the conversation into political capital.

It goes without saying that the plight of those trapped in inner cities with failing schools and dysfunctional economies are right to want change. But no matter how Freddie Gray was killed, nothing in this case changes the fact that cities like Baltimore have been governed by the political left and often by minority politicians for decades. Racism is part of the reality of American history. But the collapse of these cities is the fruit of a failed liberal government project. Liberals and Democrats point to the Baltimore riots as the justification for a renewal of the same big spending policies that have already repeatedly failed. Nor will an attempt to shoehorn isolated incidents of police misbehavior into a general narrative of racism that makes it hard for law enforcement to work bring peace to neighborhoods. That's especially true of those that badly need police to defend the safety and property of citizens beset more by crime than a notional oppression that has little connection to their lives.

The danger here is not just that justice is always sacrificed when mobs exercise influence over politicians who fear to anger them (such as Baltimore's mayor who called earlier this week for giving thugs "space to destroy). It's that a productive dialogue about how to expand economic opportunity and improve education — the only factors that can heal broken cities — is being drowned in a sea of misleading rhetoric about race and police violence.

Chicago Tribune - Editorial **[A prosecutor's rush to judgment in Baltimore](#)**

No one could accuse Baltimore state's attorney Marilyn Mosby of dragging her feet on the decision to file charges over the death of Freddie Gray, who suffered a fatal spinal injury in police custody on April 12.

Mosby got the report from an internal police department investigation on Thursday and the results of an autopsy on Friday morning. Within hours, she was standing on the courthouse steps, announcing charges against six police officers. Four of the officers are charged with homicide counts, ranging from involuntary manslaughter to second-degree murder.

Mosby bypassed a grand jury, declaring unflinchingly that she had found probable cause to file the charges herself. She batted away a call for her to step aside and let a special prosecutor handle the case because her husband is a Baltimore city councilman.

She owned the decision. She projected a sense of urgency. We pray that her confidence is well founded, that she did not act in haste in the midst of a political and social firestorm.

These are serious charges, and rare. Six officers are accused of arresting Gray for no good reason, roughing him up and ignoring his pleas for medical attention as he bounced around, unrestrained, in the back of a police wagon that made four stops on its way to the station.

Gray, 25, died a week later. If convicted, five of the officers face up to 10 years in prison; the driver faces up to 30 years.

Mosby is keenly aware that the case is playing out against a nationwide outcry over police violence toward black men.

"To the people of Baltimore and the demonstrators across America, I heard your call for 'no justice, no peace,'" she said Friday. "Your peace is sincerely needed as I work to deliver justice on behalf of this young man, those that are angry or hurt or have their own experience of injustice."

The charges against the six officers were announced 12 days after Gray's death. Contrast that to the timeline in Ferguson, Mo., where officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown on Aug. 9, 2014. A grand jury worked until Nov. 24 before deciding to return no indictment. The U.S. Justice Department cleared Wilson of civil rights violations — while issuing a damning report on systemic problems within the police department — on March 4, 2015.

The protests that rocked Ferguson were echoed across the country after police shootings in New York, Cleveland, North Charleston, S.C. and elsewhere.

In Baltimore, relations between police and the black community have been frayed for years, and apparently for sound reasons. An investigation by The Baltimore Sun last year found that over four years, more than 100 people won court judgments or settlements arising from claims of police brutality or civil rights violations. Those claims cost taxpayers more than \$5.7 million, plus another \$5.8 million spent to fight them in court.

Gray's death sparked nearly two weeks of protests — most peaceful, some violent and destructive. But Baltimore has been building to this moment for years.

In last year's election, Mosby, 35, unseated the incumbent state's attorney by promising to hold police accountable. She said unabashedly that her goal was to "reform the criminal justice system."

Four months into the job, Mosby the prosecutor is under considerable pressure to deliver on the promise made by Mosby the politician.

The officers are innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. It's a very high bar. How will Baltimore — or America — react if prosecutors come up short? What if the officers are not guilty?

This case needs to be about what happened between Freddie Gray and the six police officers who interacted with him on April 12, not about righting the entire criminal justice system. The stakes are high enough already.

National Review

[Why California's Drought Was Completely Preventable](#)

by Victor Davis Hanson

The present four-year California drought is not novel — even if President Barack Obama and California governor Jerry Brown have blamed it on man-made climate change.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, California droughts are both age-old and common. Predictable California dry spells — like those of 1929–34, 1976–77, and 1987–92 — are more likely result from poorly understood but temporary changes in atmospheric pressures and ocean temperatures.

What is new is that the state has never had 40 million residents during a drought — well over 10 million more than during the last dry spell in the early 1990s. Much of the growth is due to massive and recent immigration.

A record one in four current Californians was not born in the United States, according to the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California. Whatever one's view on immigration, it is ironic to encourage millions of newcomers to settle in the state without first making commensurately liberal investments for them in water supplies and infrastructure.

Sharp rises in population still would not have mattered much had state authorities just followed their forbearers' advice to continually increase water storage.

Environmentalists counter that existing dams and reservoirs have already tapped out the state's potential to transfer water from the wet areas, where 75 percent of the snow and rain fall, to the dry regions, where 75 percent of the population prefers to reside.

But that analysis is incomplete.

After the initial phases of the federal Central Valley Project and state California Water Project were largely finished — and flooding was no longer considered a dire threat in Northern California — environmentalists in the last 40 years canceled most of the major second- and third-stage storage projects. To take a few examples, they stopped the raising of Shasta Dam, the construction of the Peripheral Canal, and gargantuan projects such as the Ah Pah and Dos Rios reservoirs.

Those were certainly massive, disruptive, and controversial projects with plenty of downsides — and once considered unnecessary in an earlier, much smaller California. But no one denies now that they would have added millions of acre-feet of water for 40 million people.

Lower foothill dams such as the proposed Sites, Los Banos, and Temperance Flat dams in wet years would have banked millions of acre-feet as insurance for dry years. All such reservoirs were also canceled.

Yet a single 1 million acre-foot reservoir can usually be built as cheaply as a desalinization plant. It requires a fraction of desalinization's daily energy use, leaves a much smaller carbon footprint, and provides almost 20 times as much water. California could have built perhaps 40–50 such subsidiary reservoirs for the projected \$68 billion cost of the proposed high-speed rail project.

California's dams and reservoirs were originally intended to meet four objectives: flood control, agricultural irrigation, recreation, and hydroelectric generation. The inevitable results of sustaining a large population and vibrant economy were dry summer rivers in the lowlands and far less water reaching the San Francisco Bay and delta regions.

Yet state planners once accepted those unfortunate tradeoffs. They would never have envisioned in a state of 40 million using the reservoirs in a drought to release water year-round

for environmental objectives such as aiding the delta smelt or reintroducing salmon in the San Joaquin River watershed.

No one knows the exact figures on how many million acre-feet of water have been sent to the ocean since the beginning of the drought. Most agree that several million acre-feet slated for households or farming went out to sea.

There is more irony in opposing the construction of man-made and unnatural reservoirs, only to assume that such existing storage water should be tapped to ensure constant, year-round river flows. Before the age of reservoir construction, when rivers sometimes naturally dried up, such an environmental luxury may have been impossible during dry years.

Agriculture is blamed for supposedly using 80 percent of California's storage water and providing less than 5 percent of the state's GDP in return. But farming actually uses only about 40 percent of the state's currently available water. Agriculture's contribution to the state's GDP cannot be calibrated just by the sale value of its crops, but more accurately by thousands of subsidiary and spin-off industries such as fuel, machinery, food markets and restaurants that depend on the state's safe, reliable and relatively inexpensive food.

The recent rise of Silicon Valley has brought in more billions of dollars in revenue than century-old farming, but so far, no one has discovered how to eat a Facebook page or drink a Google search.

Stanford University, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley do not sit on natural aquifers sufficient to support surrounding populations. Only privileged water claims on transfers from Yosemite National Park, the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains, Northern California, or the Colorado River allow these near-desert areas along the coastal corridor to support some 20 million residents. Much of their imported water is used only once, not recycled, and sent out to sea.

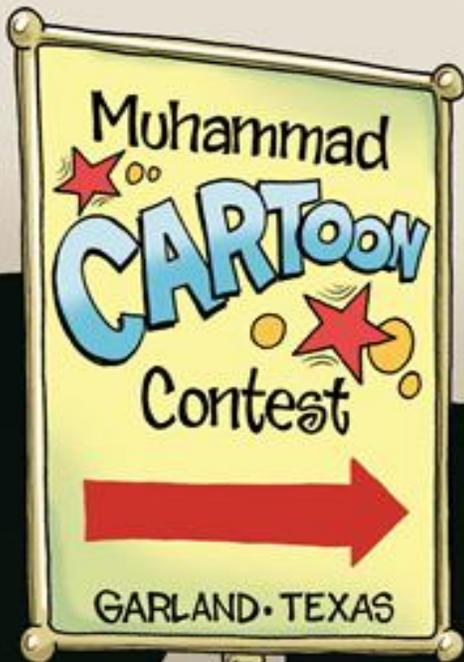
A final irony is that the beneficiaries of these man-made canals and dams neither allowed more water storage for others nor are willing to divert their own privileged water transfers to facilitate their own dreams of fish restoration. Nature may soon get back to normal — but will California?

Protecting Free Speech



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FIRST
AMENDMENT
FIGHT



ARE THOSE DONUTS IN YOUR
CART? YOU DON'T NEED DONUTS, YA
KNOW. PUT THEM BACK AND GET
BROCCOLI.

ROSEN
2015

