

LRT #27 I'm Tired of Politics

Good evening—and welcome to Living Room Talk, some thoughts on issues and events that you might be thinking about, too.

My name's John Graham—adventurer, activist, former diplomat. More at johngraham.org and in a memoir, *Sit Down Young Stranger*, on Amazon.

The topic today is: “I'm Tired of Politics”

In the six months I've been doing these talks I've gotten a lot of feedback, most of it positive. And even the brickbats have been interesting.

But what I'm hearing now is that many people are exhausted with politics. First there were the never ending screwups over coping with the pandemic, then the election, then Trump's attempts to overturn the election, now the headlong pace of the Biden presidency and, and...

All right, I'm tired too. Can't we just let the world do its thing for a while so we can get on with getting our shots and hugging our kids and grandkids and working in our gardens and just taking a few long deep breaths?

With that in mind, this week, instead of detailed analysis of any political event, I'm giving you just a short ticker.

Here we go—

1. First, the pandemic. The Biden administration seems to be doing a great job of stepping up the pace of vaccinations. But a large number of Americans say they won't take it and then there are these new variants. So it's a race against time to get enough people vaccinated fast enough to block the path of another resurgence. Wear your damn mask.

2.The verdict is near in the trial of that police officer for the murder of George Floyd. If the jury finds him innocent there will be mayhem that will make the Rodney King riots look like a garden party.

3.There was another mass shooting. Biden's executive orders will help but the new laws we need for controlling guns are still up to Congress. Good luck with that one. There won't be any substantial progress unless the Senate filibuster is weakened or eliminated. So we suffer on as the only developed country stupid enough to permit and encourage this madness.

4.The Biden Administration underestimated the surge on the southern border of unaccompanied children crossing into the United States, their parents encouraged by the kinder, gentler policies they expected from the Democrats.

The Biden people are now finding effective, caring ways of dealing with these kids but what we need is a new immigration policy that's strong, smart and compassionate. There have been bipartisan efforts to solve this problem before, but Congress may be just too damn polarized now to act for the good of the country.

5. Joe Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan. It's true there's bipartisan support for large hunks of it—I mean what Congress-person doesn't want a new bridge in their backyard? Negotiations have begun.

The danger is that there may be enough sheer cussedness on the part of the Trump party (oh I'm sorry, I meant the Republican party) to gum up the works in order to undercut Biden. But Biden is proving himself to be a very tough guy and, because this is a money bill, he could again pass it with no or few Republican votes.

6. On climate change, that sneaky Joe Biden has put a number of great climate change initiatives into his infrastructure package. I mean, didn't we invent solar panels? Why did we let the Chinese take over this industry of the future?

7. An important voting rights bill was passed by the House. It's yet another House bill that will die in the Senate unless the filibuster is drastically weakened or eliminated.

8. The Republican party seems to have decided to double down on Donald Trump as its leader, terrified of his political power to block any sane Republican from winning any Republican primary next year or in 2024. Mostly the problem is too few Republicans with the guts to stand up for the country and its constitution over the destructive ravings of an unprincipled madman.

9. And of huge importance—the baseball season has started and you can actually go to a stadium to see a game. Go Mariners!

That's all for now. I'm sorry if I left out the issue you care most about. Let me know and I'll definitely get to it. After I take a few deep breaths.

Thanks for watching.

Please share this message widely.

If you want a copy of those cards I showed you, email me at graham@giraffe.org

CARDS FOR THIS TALK

The Pandemic—can we vaccinate enough people fast enough to stop it?

The George Floyd murder trial. Verdict near. Hold your breath.

Another mass shooting. How can we keep being so dumb about gun control?

Immigration. Kids at the border have created a huge mess. It's getting fixed.

Infrastructure spending. I want a bridge too!

Climate change. Sneaky Joe strikes again.

Voting Rights bill. No hope for it unless filibuster is weakened or abolished.

Republican Party: a race to the bottom.

Baseball restarts:” Play ball!”

<https://fb.watch/4YInXjOcwD/>