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Subject: Giving Thanks! Saul's News - Weekly Review November 25, 2018

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November 25th, 2018

Happy Thanksgiving: I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and found plenty to be thankful for.

This week my oldest son Matas turned 30 and he and his wife Vaiva are expecting their first...right on time! I was 30 when we had Matas :)

Almost the entire family gathered in the BVI for Thanksgiving... a trip we spent almost 2 years planning for. Even the best laid plans don't always come together...but it was awesome.

On the political front we gained in the Senate, the crazies are at bay for another cycle and hopefully folks are starting to realize this isn't your father's Democratic party...these folks in charge today are dangerous. Seriously!

Having said all of that... I'm thankful for my family, friends and country!

-Saul Anuzis

### The GOP Agenda for the Next Two Years

So many missed opportunities these last two years.

There's a quite a bit of talk about how the two parties will work together to pass some policy initiatives over the next two years but don't believe it for a minute. It is unlikely the Democrats will compromise with the Republicans on any issue that would give Trump a win. The reality is that when it comes to important issues such as border security, tax cuts, and health care, the Democrats simply don't share the same underlying principles with the Republicans.

We need to realize that today's Democrat Party is not the same one that existed in the pre-Obama era when they were often able to find common ground with the Republicans. The last decade has seen the Democrat Party transform itself into a socialist party with little in

common with traditional American governance.

Indeed, there are no more moderate Democrats in any key party positions whatsoever and those who today set the party's agenda have a socialist orientation, despise capitalism, and support identity and group politics over merit and individual accountability. They have rejected the traditional norms that undergird the Christian-based value system America was founded upon. They defer to globalist institutions over U.S. constitutional law and don't even support basic governing principles such as sovereignty and the concept of citizenship.

If JFK ran for office today, he would not only get clobbered, but he would be denounced for his whiteness, his elitist background, and his support for capitalism, tax cuts, and a strong military. He wouldn't even make it past the Democrat primary.

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## How to Salvage Congress

So how can we start to get stuff done again? Here are three completely nonpartisan reforms for the House of Representatives, none of which would require passing a new law, and each of which would help even a divided Congress become more functional. They are intended as a starting point for debate about this issue and as a foundation for more ambitious reforms.

Unfortunately, a structural problem is harder to fix than a people problem. In the House of Representatives, we have an opportunity to get rid of bad people every two years via elections. Reforming the legislative process and realigning incentives is more difficult. The reality is that Congress cannot get anything done because it is not equipped to get anything done. It is no longer a tool suited to its original purpose of making laws and providing oversight. It has instead become a theater used by both parties to stoke the outrage of their base. We must reform the processes and power structures of Congress, or we will further tear our country apart.

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## The Greatest Threat to American Journalism: The Loss of Neutral Reporting

Over the past several months, I've watched, read and heard much about the potential Armageddon facing the profession of journalism.

I've watched colleagues proclaim that "fake news" attacks by President Trump, crowd chants of "enemies" and the expulsion of CNN's Jim Acosta from the White House press room pose the greatest threats to news reporting in history.

I respectfully disagree.

To be fair, there are many dangers I recognize and many fears I see as justified.

Forty-five members of the news media have died in the line of duty this year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The death of Jamal Khashoggi at the hands of a Saudi government seeking to silence his voice is as horrific as it is unconscionable. The mail bombs sent to media outlets also are reprehensible and chilling.

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## Trump Doesn't Need Congress to Achieve His Immigration Goals

Now that the Democrats have won control of the House of Representatives (barely) it appears a near-certainty that President Trump will be unable to get anything done in Congress on immigration – no congressional funding for the wall, no statute ending chain migration or the visa lottery, no bill for him to sign adjusting downward the current, one million-per year-plus rate of legal immigration – in the next two years.

Of course, he wasn't able to get any of that in the last two years, either, even though Republicans controlled both houses of Congress. The Republicans in Name Only (RINOs) – almost all of whom were defeated by Democrats Tuesday – blocked everything as surely as the Democrats will. They also kept trying to lead Trump into very bad compromises on immigration, "reforms" that essentially would have made the status quo – super-high immigration levels – never-ending. No doubt, the RINOs would have kept trying to do the same in the next two years, had they held on.

At least, now, Trump can blame inaction on Democrats. He and congressional candidates across the country can run in two years on immigration, which Trump knows is a winning issue for him, and if all goes well sweep into

power with a mandate to reform the American people actually want.

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## Texas Is About to Create OPEC's Worst Nightmare

The map lays out OPEC's nightmare in graphic form.

An infestation of dots, thousands of them, represent oil wells in the Permian basin of West Texas and a slice of New Mexico. In less than a decade, U.S. companies have drilled 114,000. Many of them would turn a profit even with crude prices as low as \$30 a barrel.

OPEC's bad dream only deepens next year, when Permian producers expect to iron out distribution snags that will add three pipelines and as much as 2 million barrels of oil a day.

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## The DC Establishment Gets Almost Everything Wrong About Trump's Saudi Posture

Of President Donald Trump's many disruptions to the established order, his foreign policy has been perhaps the least understood and least accepted by elites. Yesterday, President Trump resisted public pressure and declined to significantly reorient American foreign policy in light of Saudi Arabia's brutal killing of its political opponent Jamal Khashoggi, who was also a columnist for the Washington Post.

In a statement, Trump said that what happened to Khashoggi was terrible, but that Saudi Arabia is an ally that shares our broader strategic interests in the region, while Iran remains a foe to be countered.

Trump had already imposed sanctions on 17 Saudi individuals over their alleged roles in Khashoggi's killing. Anti-Trump journalists, Obama-era supporters of the Iran deal, and Republican supporters of Bush-era democracy-spreading wanted the United States to do much more to dramatically change its relationship with Saudi Arabia on account of the killing.

"In unusual statement disputing the CIA and filled with exclamation points, Trump backs Saudi ruler after Khashoggi killing," opined NBC News in its snarky headline for a news story on the announcement.

## Top Dem Donors Hosted Director From Group That Registered Dead People to Vote

The left's largest network of wealthy donors tapped an individual for a discussion on "expanding the electorate" at its fall investment conference from a group that was caught submitting fraudulent voter registration forms—including registering dead people to vote—and saw one of its employees go to prison for the crime.

The Democracy Alliance, a dark money donor club that consists of more than 100 millionaires and billionaires who each vow to pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into the coffers of progressive groups every year, held its fall investment conference last Thursday and Friday at the Capital Hilton hotel in Washington, D.C., where donors and progressive activists huddled to begin plotting their upcoming strategy for the 2020 elections.

Among the events was a strategy briefing on "expanding the electorate," according to documents obtained on site by the Washington Free Beacon.

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## Ending poverty by 'ending capitalism' is absolute nonsense. Just so, so wrong

It's hardly to Teen Vogue's credit that its dreadful story "What 'Capitalism' Is and How It Affects People" isn't nearly as wrongheaded and offensive as the viral tweet promoting it: "Can't #endpoverty without ending capitalism!" But let's start with the grotesque, clickbaity tweet. End poverty where, exactly? Is Teen Vogue referring to the United States, which it identifies as an example of a "modern capitalist" country along with Britain and Germany?

First of all, the median income of the bottom 20 percent of households is up more than 70 percent since 1979 in real terms, according to the CBO. More to the point, poverty in America has declined considerably since LBJ declared a War on Poverty in 1964. Like other advanced capitalist economies, the United States redistributes some of its massive, market-generated wealth to improve living standards at the bottom. According to the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure — which unlike the official poverty measure takes into account key safety net programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — the poverty rate fell to 13.9 percent in 2017 from 26 percent in 1967.

There's even better news when one looks at "consumption-based" poverty measures, which calculates what a family consumes instead of how much income it earns. The work of visiting AEI scholar Bruce Meyer (along with his colleague James Sullivan) finds consumption-based poverty is more like 3 percent. Here is a relevant bit from a recent

podcast chat we had:

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## Trump's Merit Based Immigration Can Create Jobs and Higher Wages for Americans Rather Than Stealing Them Away

President Trump wants to reform immigration to be based on merit, rather than lotteries, anchor babies, and chains of poor, unskilled, uneducated relatives, all with their hands out asking for public assistance from American taxpayers. Merit means immigration based on what the immigrant can bring to, rather than take from, America.

President John F. Kennedy, the last great Democrat, articulated the policy well in his 1961 Inaugural address, when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Trump's vision is to apply this principle to those who are seeking to emigrate to America.

There is one immigration provision that already follows Trump's merit-based immigration vision, the EB-5 visa program. That provision of current law provides 10,000 visas a year to foreign investors who are willing to invest half a million in state designated distressed areas creating at least 10 new jobs for American workers, or \$1 million creating jobs anywhere in America.

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## Copying the Saudi Arabia Wall Could Save United States 45% of the Cost

Saudi Arabia has proven that bigger and more expensive isn't always better. They are using what appears to be a primitive, yet effective type of border wall that would save 45% of the cost to build a wall all along our border with Mexico.

It's primitive, yet extremely effective. We could do our entire border for just 11.7 billion dollars.

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## How Ironic! Hillary Clinton: Europe must curb immigration to stop right wing populists

Europe must get a handle on immigration to combat a growing threat from rightwing populists, Hillary Clinton has said, calling on the continent's leaders to send out a stronger signal showing they are "not going to be able to continue to provide refuge and support".

In an interview with the Guardian, the former Democratic presidential candidate praised the generosity shown by the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, but suggested immigration was inflaming voters and contributed to the election of Donald Trump and Britain's vote to leave the EU.

"I think Europe needs to get a handle on migration because that is what lit the flame," Clinton said, speaking as part of a series of interviews with senior centrist political figures about the rise of populists, particularly on the right, in Europe and the Americas.

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