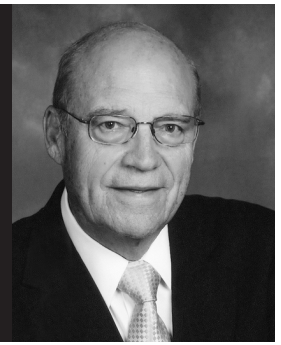




Dr. Fred Schwarz

The Schwarz Report

60 Years Defending Our Christian Faith



Dr. David Noebel

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Intelligent Design Theory

by Robert Arvay

For many years now, the argument by atheist scientists has seemed reasonable. It goes something like this: we do not claim that there is no God. We simply claim that there is no scientific evidence for Him. If you have such evidence, we will examine it. If the evidence justifies a belief in God, we will accept it. Until then, only the physical can explain the physical. There is no need for God and no room for Him in science. If you say there is a God, then show us the evidence.

That was their argument because, until recent years, there was not, in the strictest sense, the kind of evidence science requires. To be sure, there were claims of such evidence, but however sincere those claims may have been, they were not persuasive enough to convince an honest skeptic. The gold standard of science, stated informally, is that a new paradigm is accepted when the evidence is solid enough to convince an objective, unbiased, and qualified person.

It turns out that scientists are as biased as anyone else. Their biases are being exposed by an increasing number of younger, more open-minded scientists. These newcomers are breaking free of the unscientific philosophy, the doctrine of physicalism, that presently dominates their disciplines. They are willing to challenge the notion that nothing exists except the physical. The old guard is resisting. The entrenched establishment is making ever less credible excuses for holding on to its resolute belief that only the physical exists.

Several books by accredited scientists are methodically breaking through the wall of physicalist ideology, much to the dismay of its loyalists. Dr. Stephen C. Meyer has written a highly acclaimed book titled *Darwin's Doubt*, which not only focuses on the inadequacy of evolution theory, but has taken a positive track toward explaining speciation. He presents an approach that fits the newest scientific evidence. Before him, biochemist Michael Behe wrote his book, *Darwin's Black Box*, which shows that certain stages of evolution would be blocked by the principle of irreducible complexity. Nor is the revolution in thinking confined to biologists. *The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos Is Designed for Discovery* by Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay W. Richards cites astrophysics as a challenge to a strictly physicalist dogma.

It is not so much conventional scientists disputing theories such as intelligent design (of the physical world) that is noteworthy. Debate in science is necessary. What is astonishing is the intensity, often bordering on the authoritarian, of the resistance to the recent progress in demonstrating that physicalism cannot explain physics. In academia, even the mere discussion of alternatives to evolution, for example, is strictly forbidden.

The old guard accuses the proponents of Intelligent Design Theory of attempting to smuggle sectarian religion into the schools under the guise of such things as Creation Science. It is far more apparent, however, that what has already been smuggled in is atheism posing as science.

In either case, proper evaluation of a scientific theory has nothing to do with who is suggesting it. It has to do with evidence and reason. And the evidence increasingly favors theories like Intelligent Design.

In the past few years, a number of observers have chronicled the disturbing trend within the science establishment toward bias and even outright corruption. While the left accuses conservatives of politicizing science, it is they who opportunistically exploit climate change and COVID-19 for their personal advantage.

If the physicalist worldview gains final supremacy, if the atheist view prevails, then the door is opened to technological barbarism. If human beings are thought to be without souls, without spirit, then what logic prevents us from

being treated as mere assemblages of atoms and nothing more? What materialist basis is there for respecting human rights, especially if those rights come from God?

Fortunately, the evidence for God is accumulating. The deniers are scrambling for cover. Instead of seeking truth, they are hiding from the God they purport not to believe in. The truth, however, has a way of overcoming all falsehood. We are winning.

—*American Thinker*, Dec 29, 2020

CCP vs. Christians

by Walter Russell Mead

With the European Parliament threatening to block an investment deal with China over persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang, the shock waves released by Beijing's Hong Kong crackdown still reverberating, and the debate over the next US administration's China policy heating up, this would seem like a bad time for Beijing to kick off another major international dustup over human rights.

But that logic holds little appeal for Chinese policy makers today; crushing domestic dissent takes priority over burnishing the country's image. This is bad news for China's Christians, who face growing hostility from a ruling party that until a few years ago was willing to turn a blind eye to the proliferation of unofficial "house churches" across the country.

That era of toleration coincided with one of the greatest expansions of Christianity in the past 2,000 years. From an estimated three million believers at the end of the Cultural Revolution, the number of Protestants in China is now believed to exceed 100 million, with another 10 million to 12 million Catholics. (The government offers an implausible figure of 38 million Protestants.) The Council on Foreign Relations cites a 2018 estimate from Purdue's Center on Religion and Chinese Society of between 93 million and 115 million Protestants in China. Much of the growth has come since 2010, and some projections suggest that by 2030 China could surpass America to have the largest population of Christians in the world.

This is one of the few competitions with the US that Beijing does not want to win. Churches are increasingly targets of the Chinese Communist Party's repression of free speech. Some have been demolished; others have

been "secularized" as local officials tear down religious symbols such as crosses. Authorities are now demanding the installation of cameras to monitor worshipers' behavior and pastors' sermons. There are reports of Catholic churches being forced to replace pictures of the Virgin Mary with portraits of Xi Jinping.

In October, *National Review's* Cameron Hilditch pointed to a Xinhua News Agency report that the Communist Party has decided to produce a state-approved Bible. Mr. Hilditch reports that one change is to the New Testament story in which Jesus spares a woman taken in adultery from stoning by telling her accusers not to cast the first stone unless they are sinless. In the new, improved version, when the accusers have left, Jesus stones the woman himself, saying, "I too am a sinner. But if the law could only be executed by men without blemish, the law would be dead."

Long before the Communists took power, Chinese rulers feared religious cults could cause political unrest. Given the history of Western countries demanding special privileges for missionaries, Christianity was seen as an alien and threatening faith, and the Communist Party was quick to expel missionaries and persecute local Christians after 1949. Protestantism and Catholicism are, with Islam, Buddhism and Taoism, among the officially recognized religions in China, but membership in any but state-licensed and state-controlled congregations is illegal—and no longer overlooked.

The explosive growth of Chinese Christianity is on a collision course with a government determined to centralize power in the Communist Party in ways not seen since the death of Mao. China's Christians are to a great extent urban, well-educated, and connected to global information networks. For these reasons, serious pressure on Christians will have an even more damaging impact on China's international standing than what happened in Tibet, Xinjiang, or Hong Kong. As news spreads that the Communist Party is persecuting Christians for their faith, the effects on American public opinion will be both explosive and long-lasting, potentially ending any hope for better or even stable relations between Washington and Beijing.

China's rulers saw how the strong example of Pope John Paul II contributed to the collapse of communism in Poland, and they were horrified at the part South Korean Christians played in that country's transition to democracy. Local Christians' prominent role in the Hong Kong democracy movement provided yet another

argument for those counseling a stern crackdown. Something very ugly may be in the works.

Throttling diversity at home at the cost of deepening isolation abroad. No earthly power has the ability to stop Beijing from choosing this path if that is what party leaders wish. But it is unlikely that China will like what it finds at the end of that road.

Let us hope in this season of peace and goodwill that moderation and tolerance will prevail in Beijing.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, December 22, 2020, p. A13

Security Threat No. 1

by John Ratcliffe

As Director of National Intelligence, I am entrusted with access to more intelligence than any member of the US government other than the president. I oversee the intelligence agencies, and my office produces the President's Daily Brief detailing the threats facing the country. If I could communicate one thing to the American people from this unique vantage point, it is that the People's Republic of China poses the greatest threat to America today, and the greatest threat to democracy and freedom world-wide since World War II.

The intelligence is clear: Beijing intends to dominate the US and the rest of the planet economically, militarily, and technologically. Many of China's major public initiatives and prominent companies offer only a layer of camouflage to the activities of the Chinese Communist Party.

I call its approach of economic espionage "rob, replicate, and replace." China robs US companies of their intellectual property, replicates the technology, and then replaces the US firms in the global marketplace.

Take Sinovel. In 2018 a federal jury found the Chinese wind-turbine manufacturer guilty of stealing trade secrets from American Superconductor. Penalties were imposed but the damage was done. The theft resulted in the US company losing more than \$1 billion in shareholder value and cutting 700 jobs. Today Sinovel sells wind turbines world-wide as if it built a legitimate business through ingenuity and hard work rather than theft.

The FBI frequently arrests Chinese nationals for stealing research-and-development secrets. Until the

head of Harvard's Chemistry Department was arrested earlier this year, China was allegedly paying him \$50,000 a month as part of a plan to attract top scientists and reward them for stealing information. The professor has pleaded not guilty to making false statements to US authorities. Three scientists were ousted in 2019 from MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston over concerns about China's theft of cancer research. The US government estimates that China's intellectual-property theft costs America as much as \$500 billion a year, or between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per US household.

China also steals sensitive US defense technology to fuel President Xi Jinping's aggressive plan to make China the world's foremost military power. US intelligence shows that China has even conducted human testing on members of the People's Liberation Army in hope of developing soldiers with biologically enhanced capabilities. There are no ethical boundaries to Beijing's pursuit of power.

China is also developing world-class capabilities in emerging technologies. Its intelligence services use their access to tech firms such as Huawei to enable malicious activities, including the introduction of vulnerabilities into software and equipment. Huawei and other Chinese firms deny this, but China's efforts to dominate 5G telecommunications will only increase Beijing's opportunities to collect intelligence, disrupt communications and threaten user privacy world-wide. I have personally told US allies that using such Chinese-owned technology will severely limit America's ability to share vital intelligence with them.

China already suppresses US web content that threatens the Communist Party's ideological control, and it is developing offensive cyber capabilities against the US homeland. This year China engaged in a massive influence campaign that included targeting several dozen members of Congress and congressional aides.

Consider this scenario: A Chinese-owned manufacturing facility in the US employs several thousand Americans. One day, the plant's union leader is approached by a representative of the Chinese firm. The businessman explains that the local congresswoman is taking a hard-line position on legislation that runs counter to Beijing's interests—even though it has nothing to do with the industry the company is involved in—and says the union leader must urge her to shift positions or the plant and all its jobs will soon be gone.

The union leader contacts his congresswoman and indicates that his members won't support her re-election

without a change in position. He tells himself he's protecting his members, but in that moment he's doing China's bidding, and the congresswoman is being influenced by China, whether she realizes it or not.

Our intelligence shows that Beijing regularly directs this type of influence operation in the US. I briefed the House and Senate Intelligence committees that China is targeting members of Congress with six times the frequency of Russia and 12 times the frequency of Iran.

To address these threats and more, I have shifted resources inside the \$85 billion annual intelligence budget to increase the focus on China. This shift must continue to ensure US intelligence has the resources it needs to give policy makers unvarnished insights into China's intentions and activities.

Within intelligence agencies, a healthy debate and shift in thinking is already under way. For the talented intelligence analysts and operators who came up during the Cold War, the Soviet Union and Russia have always been the focus. For others who rose through the ranks at the turn of this century, counterterrorism has been top of mind. But today we must look with clear eyes at the facts in front of us, which make plain that China should be America's primary national security focus going forward.

Other nations must understand this is true for them as well. The world is being presented a choice between two wholly incompatible ideologies. China's leaders seek to subordinate the rights of the individual to the will of the Communist Party. They exert government control over companies and subvert the privacy and freedom of their citizens with an authoritarian surveillance state.

We shouldn't assume that Beijing's efforts to drag the world back into the dark will fail just because the forces of good have triumphed before in modern times. China believes that a global order without it at the top is a historical aberration. It aims to change that and reverse the spread of liberty around the world.

Beijing is preparing for an open-ended period of confrontation with the US. Washington should also be prepared. Leaders must work across partisan divides to understand the threat, speak about it openly, and take action to address it.

This is our once-in-a-generation challenge. Americans have always risen to the moment, from defeating the scourge of fascism to bringing down the Iron Curtain. This generation will be judged by its response to China's effort to reshape the world in its own image and replace America as the dominant

superpower. The intelligence is clear. Our response must be as well.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, December 4, 2020, p. A17

Three Great Americans

by Lloyd Billingsley

On December 2, one day after teaching his final class at George Mason University, economist Walter Williams passed away at the age of 84. Williams earned his Ph.D. at UCLA, defended liberty with great brilliance, and authored books such as *The State Against Blacks*. Never an ivory-tower type, Williams readily applied his insights to the world of sports.

It had come to his attention that very few of his fellow African Americans become place kickers in the National Football League. For the erudite Williams, this was not a complicated matter. As he saw it, black players simply did not *want* to become place kickers, and instead preferred other positions. So it was a matter of volition, an insight with a broader application.

Many college athletes would excel at wrestling, weightlifting, and track and field. Many choose to play football because in America it is possible to earn a good living in that team sport. These athlete-students will play college football for no money, only payment in kind in the form of tuition, while barred from marketing their own name and image.

Only in the professional ranks can the athletes earn what they are worth, based on the desire of others to watch them play. Walter Williams understood that dynamic. So did his fellow UCLA alum, Rafer Johnson, who passed away on December 2 at the age of 86.

Johnson went to UCLA on *academic* and athletic scholarships, became student body president, and played basketball for the great John Wooden in 1958-1959. Johnson could have excelled in the NBA or NFL but his childhood hero was Bob Mathias, Olympic decathlon winner in 1948 and 1952. For Johnson, it did not matter that Mathias was a person of pallor. What counted was dedication and achievement.

Johnson duly chose the decathlon, perhaps the most difficult athletic discipline. He took home Olympic gold in 1960, prevailing over UCLA teammate C. K. Yang of Taiwan and Vasily Kuznetsov of the Soviet Union. In

1984 in Los Angeles, Johnson took the torch from Gina Hemphill, Jesse Owens' granddaughter, and lit the Olympic flame.

Another talented athlete, Paul Hornung, *wanted* to play football. At Notre Dame, Hornung won the Heisman Trophy as a quarterback. With the Green Bay Packers, Hornung ran the ball, kicked field goals, caught passes and threw passes. In the 1961 title game, Hornung scored 19 points on one rushing touchdown, three field goals and four extra points as the Packers prevailed over the New York Giants, 37-0.

Hornung was the NFL's most valuable player in 1961 and played on Green Bay's championship teams in 1961, 1962, 1965, and 1966. In a nine-year career, he scored 760 points on 62 touchdowns, 66 field goals and 190 extra points. Hornung led the NFL in scoring from 1959-1961 and his 1960 record of 176 points in a single season stood for 46 years.

If not a contender for the greatest of all time, Paul Hornung was certainly in a class by himself. Even so, Hornung did not get the recognition he deserved when he passed away at 84 on November 13. He was a *bon vivant*, but hardly alone in that regard. A gambling scandal in 1963 got him suspended for a season, but did not prevent his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1986.

The lack of acclaim might simply be due to national memory loss. In similar style, Rafer Johnson deserved more praise than he got, and so did Walter Williams.

Like his longtime friend Thomas Sowell, still going strong at 90, Williams showed that African Americans did not need affirmative action to succeed. He rejected the notion that black people were perpetual victims, and his defense of liberty defied political correctness.

Williams, Johnson, and Hornung confirm that choices matter and that choice thrives best in a free society. If we can keep free society going, others can step up to take their place.

—*AmericanGreatness.com*, December 26, 2020

California: Red, Pink, Green

by Dennis Prager

I am writing this column upon returning home to California after five days in Florida. For the first time since my first trip to Los Angeles in 1974 and moving there two years later, I dreaded going to California.

That first trip, as a 25-year-old New Yorker, I experienced the palpable excitement looking at the American Airlines flight board at JFK airport and seeing "Los Angeles." For most Americans, the very name "California" elicited excitement, wonder, even envy of Californians, and most of all . . . freedom. While America always represented freedom, within America, California exemplified freedom most of all.

Yet, here I am, sitting in a state where corruption reigns (one of the leading Democrats of the last half-century told me years ago that politicians in California are window dressing; the real power in California is wielded by unions) and where, for nine months, normal life has been shut down, schools have been closed and small businesses have been destroyed in unprecedented numbers.

During these last five days in Florida, a state governed by the pro-freedom party, I went anywhere I wanted. First and foremost, I could eat both inside and outside restaurants. At one of them, when I stood up to take photos of people dining, a patron who recognized me walked over and said, "I assume you're just taking pictures of people eating in a restaurant." That's exactly what I was doing. I even took my two grandchildren to a bowling alley, which was filled with people enjoying themselves playing myriad arcade games as well as bowling.

None of that is allowed almost anywhere in California. It is becoming a police state, rooted in deception and irrationality.

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Purchase books featured in *The Schwarz Report* like: *You Can Still Trust the Communists to be Communists* by Fred C. Schwarz and David A. Noebel, *Understanding The Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews* by Jeff Myers and David A. Noebel, and *The Naked Truth* by Dr. James C. Bowers.

Find a complete list of books recommended by the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade.

Read back issues of *The Schwarz Report* as well.

Restaurants have been shut down (except for takeout orders), even for outdoor dining, for no scientific reason. After ordering Los Angeles county restaurants closed, the health authorities of Los Angeles county acknowledged in court that they had no evidence that outdoor dining was dangerous; they ordered restaurants closed, even to outdoor dining, solely in order to keep people home.

The left's claim to "follow the science" is a lie. The left does not follow science; it follows scientists it agrees with and dismisses all other scientists as "anti-science."

Science does not say that eating inside a restaurant at least six feet from other diners, let alone outside a restaurant, is potentially fatal, but eating inside an airplane inches from strangers is safe.

Science does not say mass protests during a pandemic (when people are constantly told to social distance) are a health benefit, but left-wing scientists say they are—when directed against racism. In June, Jennifer Nuzzo, a Johns Hopkins epidemiologist, tweeted: "In this moment the public health risks of not protesting to demand an end to systemic racism greatly exceed the harms of the virus." She cited *the former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Tom Frieden: "The threat to Covid control from protesting outside is tiny compared to the threat to Covid control created when governments act in ways that lose community trust. People can protest peacefully AND work together to stop Covid. Violence harms public health."

Even *The New York Times*, in July, acknowledged the double standard: "Public health experts decried the anti-lockdown protests as dangerous gatherings in a pandemic. Health experts seem less comfortable doing so now that the marches are against racism."

Science does not say, "Men give birth" or, "Men menstruate." But the left routinely argues that "science says" such things and that "science says" there are more than two sexes, many more.

The last time I felt I was leaving a free society and entering an unfree one was when I visited the communist countries of Eastern Europe. As a graduate student majoring in communism, during the Cold War, I would travel through the countries known as Soviet satellites: Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. In the middle of my trips, I would stop in Austria to breathe free air.

Never did I imagine I would ever experience anything analogous in America, the Land of the Free, the land of the Statue of Liberty and of the Liberty Bell. But I did yesterday, when leaving Florida and returning to California.

There is no question that America is becoming, if it hasn't already become, two countries: one that values liberty, from small businesses being allowed to operate to people being allowed to say what they believe, and one that has contempt for liberty, from eating in restaurants to free speech.

I am asked almost daily by friends around the country and by callers to my national radio show whether I intend to stay in California. Were it not for all the close friends who live here and the synagogue I and a few friends founded, the answer would be no. But at a given point, I am sure that I will leave this Soviet satellite for a free state. The bigger and far more important question is: How long will the Soviet states of America and the free states of America remain the United States of America?

—*FrontPageMag.com*, December 24, 2020

One Man and One Woman in Doubt

by Tyler O-Neil

In a Federalist Society speech on Thursday, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito raised the alarm about threats to religious freedom, free speech, and the rule of law—threats exacerbated in the "constitutional stress-test" of the Wuhan coronavirus pandemic. These threats are by no means limited to lockdown restrictions and COVID-19 issues, but the virus has highlighted them.

"The pandemic has resulted in previously unimaginable restrictions on individual liberty," Alito said. "I am not diminishing the severity of the virus's threat to public health, and putting aside what I will say shortly about a few Supreme Court cases, I'm not saying anything about the legality of COVID restrictions. All that I'm saying is this... we have never before seen restrictions as severe, extensive, and prolonged as those experienced for most of 2020."

Alito mentioned many “live events that would otherwise be protected by the right to freedom of speech” that state and local governments have prohibited, including the fact that churches were closed on Easter Sunday by government fiat.

“The COVID crisis has served as a sort of constitutional stress-test. And in doing so it has highlighted disturbing trends that were already present before the virus struck,” the justice argued.

Alito first highlighted “the dominance of lawmaking by executive fiat rather than legislation.” He rightly traced this idea back to “the vision of early twentieth-century progressives and the New Dealers of the 1930s . . . that policy-making would shift from narrow-minded elected legislators to an elite group of elected experts, in a word, that policymaking would become more scientific.”

For instance, a Nevada law gives the state’s governor extraordinary powers. If the governor finds that there is “a natural, technological, or manmade emergency or disaster of major proportions, the governor can perform and exercise such functions, powers, and duties as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population.”

Yet the Supreme Court has a duty to step in “whenever fundamental rights are restricted.”

Along those lines, Alito warned that religious freedom has grown increasingly out of favor.

“It pains me to say this but in certain quarters, religious liberty is fast becoming a disfavored right,” he lamented. He briefly mentioned the Supreme Court case *Employment Division v. Smith* and Congress’s passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. The House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill, while the Senate passed it, 97-3. President Bill Clinton signed it into law.

“Today, that widespread support has vanished. When states have considered or gone ahead and adopted their own versions of RFRA, they have been threatened with punishing economic boycotts,” Alito said.

He also briefly covered recent Supreme Court cases illustrating the threat to religious freedom.

Alito mentioned the Little Sisters of the Poor, “women who have dedicated their lives to caring for the elderly poor, regardless of religion.” Some of their beneficiaries have testified that the Little Sisters “will keep you alive for ten years longer.”

“Despite this inspiring work, the Little Sisters have been under unrelenting attack for the better part of a decade. Why? Because they refuse to allow their health insurance plan to provide contraceptives to their employees. For that, they were targeted by the prior administration,” the justice noted.

The Obama administration threatened the Little Sisters with hefty fines “if they did not knuckle under and violate a tenet of their faith.” While the group of nuns won a Supreme Court case last spring, the case went back to the Court of Appeals. President Donald Trump created a religious freedom exemption in the contraception mandate, but Joe Biden has pledged to drop that exemption.

In another case, the State of Washington required pharmacies to carry all contraceptives, including the morning-after pill. The Christian pharmacy Ralph’s refused to carry that abortifacient pill, but it gladly referred women to nearby pharmacies that did carry it. The state decided that this work-around was not enough.

Alito also mentioned Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop who notoriously refused to bake a cake celebrating a same-sex wedding. He cited a member of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission who said that freedom of religion had been used “to justify all kinds of discrimination throughout history, whether it be slavery, whether it be the Holocaust, we can list hundreds of situations where freedom of religion has been used to justify discrimination.”

“For many today, religious liberty is not a cherished freedom. It’s often just an excuse for bigotry, and it cannot be tolerated,” Alito warned.

He mentioned that not a single employee of the Little Sisters has asked for contraception, no woman lacks contraception because of Ralph’s, and no same-sex couple has failed to get a cake because of Jack Phillips.

“A great many Americans disagree, sometimes quite strongly, with the religious beliefs of the Little Sisters, the owners of Ralph’s, and Jack Phillips. They have a perfect right to do so. That is not the question. The question we face is whether our society will be inclusive enough to tolerate people with unpopular religious beliefs,” the justice noted.

Alito cited Harvard Law professor Mark Tushnet, who notoriously wrote, “The culture wars are over. They lost, we won.” Terrifyingly, the professor compared social conservatives to the defeated Axis powers in World War II.

“My own judgment is that taking a hard line (‘You lost, live with it’) is better than trying to accommodate the losers, who—remember—defended, and are defending, positions that liberals regard as having no normative pull at all,” he argued. “Trying to be nice to the losers didn’t work well after the Civil War, nor after Brown. (And taking a hard line seemed to work reasonably well in Germany and Japan after 1945.)”

This hostility to traditional religion has bled into COVID-19 restrictions.

Alito referenced a Supreme Court decision on Nevada’s restrictions upholding the state’s double standard on casinos and houses of worship. The governor opened casinos—some of which are truly humongous—at 50 percent capacity while restricting religious services to 50 people or fewer. “If you want to worship and you’re the 51st person in line, sorry, you are out of luck. The size of the building doesn’t matter, nor does it matter if you wear a mask or stay 6 feet apart.”

“The state’s message is this: forget about worship and head for the slot machines or maybe a Cirque du Soleil show,” Alito said.

“Take a quick look at the Constitution. You will see the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment which protects religious liberty. You will not find a craps clause, or a blackjack clause, or a slot machine clause,” the justice quipped. “Nevada was unable to provide any plausible justification for treating casinos more favorably than houses of worship, but the Court nevertheless deferred to the governor’s judgment, which just so happened to favor the state’s biggest industry and the many voters it employs.”

The justice contrasted this “blatant discrimination” against religious freedom with a Maryland district judge’s decision to strike down an FDA rule providing that women who want medication abortions must go to a clinic in person to access them. The judge struck down this rule in the name of protecting women from COVID-19, even though Gov. Larry Hogan (R-Md.) had allowed people to go to gyms, casinos, and hair and nail salons in a limited reopening at the time.

Alito also warned that “support for freedom of speech is also in danger and COVID rules have restricted speech in unprecedented ways.”

While coronavirus lockdowns have shut down attendance at speeches, conferences, lectures, rallies, and more, “even before the pandemic, there was growing hostility to the expression of unfavorable views.”

Alito quipped that there are “seventy times seven” things that Americans cannot say if they are students or professors at a college or university, or employees speaking for a corporation.

“You can’t say that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. Until very recently, that’s what the vast majority of Americans thought. Now, it’s considered bigotry,” he warned.

“That this would happen after our decision in *Obergefell* [the 2015 case striking down state laws on marriage] should not have come as a surprise. Yes, the opinion of the Court included words meant to calm the fears of those who cling to traditional views on marriage. But I could see, and so did the other justices in dissent, where the decision would lead,” Alito warned.

He quoted his own dissent in the case, “I assume that those who cling to old beliefs will be able to whisper their thoughts in the recesses of their homes. But if they repeat those views in public, they will risk being labeled as bigots and being treated as such by governments, employers, and schools.”

“That is just what is coming to pass,” the justice lamented. Indeed, in one recent case, the Kroger Company fired two women in Little Rock, Ark., who refused to wear a rainbow-colored heart emblem on an apron because they did not want to endorse LGBT activism.

Religious freedom and free speech are indeed under assault in America today, and even if the coronavirus pandemic fades away tomorrow, these threats to fundamental rights will persist.

—*PJMedia*, November 13, 2020

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade’s address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is 719-685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. You may also access earlier editions of *The Schwarz Report* and make donations at www.schwarzreport.org. Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address. Our daily blog address is www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com.