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More notes on the state of things

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Nothing exposes the intellectual bankruptcy of “progressives” quite like a recent fundraising mailer that contained a survey of “push questions” that preach to the misguided.

It came from Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee. And it prompts this question: Are Democrats really this stupid?

As but one example, do Democrats believe that Social Security, a Ponzi scheme, somehow is sustainable?

How can any even mildly educated person think that the same dollars, privately invested and allowed to grow over the long term (and even with stock market fluctuations, corrections and, yes, recessions) would not provide for a better retirement controlled by retirees?

That “progressives” do not affirm they believe not in the liberty of the individual but in servitude to the government. ...

The chirping of the birdies is growing louder that, in fact, a federal grand jury has been empaneled to hear all of the particulars of presumptive Democrat presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's email antics. A private computer server. Classified emails. Manipulation of those emails? Hacking of an unsecured server by foreign powers? An orchestrated cover-up? Where did it start? Where does it end?

Buttressing the belief of a grand jury investigation is word that the former State Department fella who set up the non-government server has been granted immunity. And for those who know how such things work — Fox News judicial analyst Andrew Napolitano chief among them — it's pretty much a given that the government is looking to indict somebody. One observer even goes as far as predicting an indictment sometime in May.

Joe Biden surely is licking his chops at the prospect of becoming the Democrats' 2016 “savior.” And everybody's talking about a brokered Republican convention? ...

Don Boudreaux has been writing on economics for the Trib for more than a decade. I first met the affable George Mason University scholar at a Cato Institute conference near San Diego in

1998. And his twice-monthly column — “Economics in Many Lessons” — should be mandatory reading for every student in America.

Don can dispel economic myths faster than the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority can screw up a bill. To wit, when CNN ran a report last month that Puerto Rico's decision to freeze the price of condoms would help that island nation halt the spread of the mosquito-borne Zika virus, Boudreaux was quick to chide the cable network for its illogic:

“The price freeze will prevent the Zika-inspired rise in the demand for condoms from calling forth an increase in the quantity of condoms supplied to satisfy that higher demand. The resulting shortage of condoms will prompt some people to wait in queues to buy condoms, causing other people to turn to black-market suppliers and cause yet other people simply to not use condoms during sex.

“Each of these consequences reflects the reality that the price freeze, rather than keeping condoms “cheap,” will raise the cost inordinately — and, in the process, further promote the spread of Zika.”

But Boudreaux's coup de grace came in the final line of his letter to CNN:

“People are in dire need of a prophylactic against such harmful government intrusions.” Ain't that the truth.