

That was then, this is now

“Those are my principles, and if you don’t like them ... well, I have others.” — **Groucho Marx**

Guess who said this: “China takes total advantage of the United States. They steal our intellectual property using cyber theft. Not only do they steal our intellectual property, they keep our good companies out, and say the only way you’re going to be able to sell your American products in China ... is if you come to China, make them there, and give us the techniques and intellectual property.”

Elon Musk? Nope. President Trump? Wrong again. That was then-Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in a 2018 radio interview. On another occasion that same year, Schumer said: “I’m closer to him (Trump) on trade than I was to either Obama, a Democrat, or Bush, a Republican, because we’ve got to get tougher on China. ... But the president and his team have to stick with it, be strong, and not sell out for a temporary purchase of goods without addressing the real issue: the theft of American intellectual property which will cost us millions of American jobs in the long run.”

How about this one: “In terms of tariffs, it’s interesting to note that the average MFN (most favored nation) tariff for Chinese goods coming into the United States is 2%, whereas the average MFN tariff on U.S. goods going to China is 35 percent. Is that reciprocal?”

Same list of choices? Wrong again. That was Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in 1996.

One more: “It’s also proper for advanced economies like the United States to insist on reciprocity from nations like China.” That was President Barack Obama speaking

in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2018.

What changed and caused many Democrats who previously favored tariffs to now excoriate Trump over the tariff policies they once supported? Why, politics, of course. Politicians can change

positions faster than they can change lanes.

On Wednesday, the president announced a 90-day “pause” in his implementation of tariffs. China was the lone exception as the trade war with that communist country continues.

The stock market reacted swiftly. The Dow Jones Industrial Averages immediately jumped by 2,500 points. NASDAQ rose 10%. The Dow is still 2,000 points under where it was when Trump first announced his tariff regime, but the market’s quick response should calm especially retirees with modest investments in their 401k accounts.

Some financial analysts believe Trump has the upper hand with China as that country’s economy is anything but strong. China’s leaders don’t want to lose face with the U.S. and if President Xi Jinping mishandles this war his leadership could be threatened.

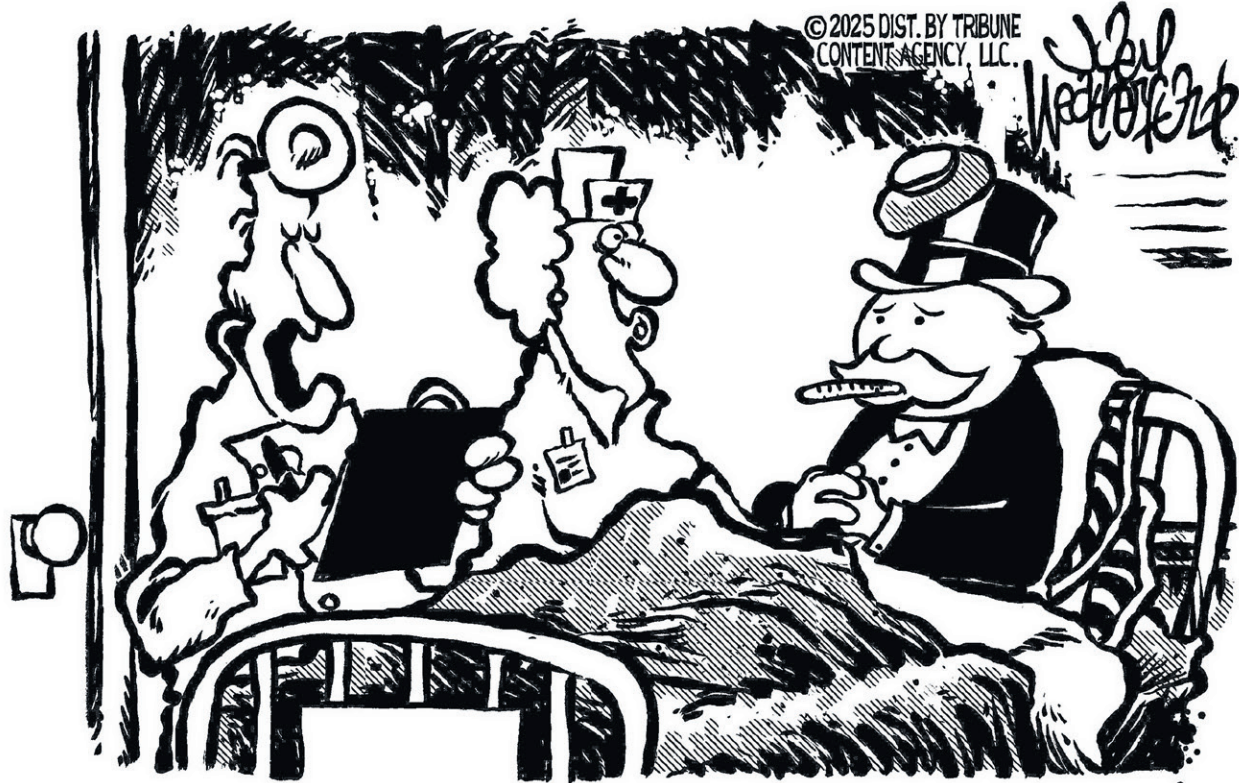
President Trump might consider a nationally televised address in which he would explain in simple terms his goals and how all of this will play out.

So far all this razzle-dazzle hasn’t resulted in any foreign nations, especially members of the European Union, reducing or dropping their tariffs against U.S. products. They appear to be waiting to see what develops. They are not alone.

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DON'T WORRY, YOU WILL BE FEELING BETTER SOON ... THE MARKET IS ALREADY LOOKING UP

KY Realtors provide more money for relief fund

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

In response to the high volume of applications, Kentucky Realtors announced the allocation of an additional \$125,000 to support individuals and families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by recent severe weather.

To date, 225 families have received housing assistance from the Kentucky Realtors Relief Foundation, the state organization said in a statement

issued Wednesday. Relief funds are available to assist those affected by recent storms and those who experienced home damage during a state of emergency declared Feb. 14 by Gov. Andy Beshear.

Eligible residents are encouraged to submit their applications at kyrrelief.com. The application window is open through 5 p.m. EDT April 30. Kentuckians who already have received assistance from the Ken-

tucky Realtors Relief Foundation are ineligible to reapply as grants are awarded on a per-household basis.

“Kentucky Realtors want to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home,” said Barb Curtis, president of Kentucky Realtors. “We’re dedicated to helping Kentuckians in every corner of the state who are still in need of assistance get the relief funding they need to address damage done by recent storms and severe

weather conditions.”

Kentucky Realtors have responded to many of the state’s severe weather incidents since the 2021 tornadoes, including deadly flooding in eastern Kentucky in 2022, flooding in western Kentucky in the summer of 2023 and tornadoes in western Kentucky last year.

For questions about the relief funding or any issues applying, send an email to ktetzlaff@kyrealtors.com.

Consumers who bought generic drugs may get settlement

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Consumers are encouraged to check their eligibility for compensation for certain generic drug purchases as Kentucky joins 50 states and territories in seeking preliminary approval for a \$39.1 million settlement from a drug manufacturer.

The states claim the company Apotex, which produces generic medications, attempted to inflate prices and limit competition.

If you purchased a generic prescription drug between 2010 and 2018, you may be eligible for compensation. The full list of medications is five pages long and includes benazepril, dextroamphetamine, fluconazole, nystatin, tri-fluoperazine and lidocaine ointment.

To determine eligibility, consumers can call 1-866-290-0182 (toll-free), email info@AGGenericDrugs.com or go to AGGenericDrugs.com.

The same multistate coalition also previously reached a \$10 million settlement with Heritage Pharmaceuticals for similar practices.

The settlement agreements, announced last month, resolve allegations that both Apotex and Heritage engaged in long-running conspiracies to artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition. As part of the settlements, both Apotex and Heritage have agreed to a

series of internal reforms to ensure fair competition and compliance with anti-trust laws.

“These companies took advantage of Kentuckians who rely on their medications. Their behavior was shameful and unlawful,” Attorney General Russell Coleman said in news release Wednesday. “We fought to deliver justice for the Kentuckians harmed and we encourage you to check if you are entitled to compensation.”

AID

FROM **PAGE A4**

Today, as then, if we don’t invest in foreign aid, our rivals will. As America turns inward, China sees openings to extend its influence.

Second, we should provide aid because it’s the right thing to do. We are, by many measures, the wealthiest and most powerful country in history. Helping people who are in need aligns with our values as a nation. We can’t fix all the world’s problems, but we can and should be a force for good.

Finally, the appeal of cutting foreign aid derives from a series of myths. The most persistent is that we spend a lot more money on foreign aid than we do. Polls find that a plurality of Americans think foreign aid accounts for between one-fourth and one-third of

government spending. In fact, it’s only about 1%.

It’s also common to hear that other nations should take on a larger share of providing foreign aid. It’s true that the United States provides more aid than any other nation, but that’s primarily because of our size and wealth. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, we spend 0.24% of our gross national income on overseas aid. That’s near the bottom of OECD countries, far less than Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom.

A common criticism is that foreign aid is squandered by corrupt or unstable governments. Yes, we should do our best to get aid to people who need it most. However, most American foreign assistance is delivered by nonprofits, including faith-based organizations, and by partnerships with businesses. Only a small

share passes through foreign governments.

There are also questions about whether the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on foreign aid has been effective. Are we creating sustainable progress? Are we making people dependent on aid? These are legitimate concerns, but foreign aid has accomplished a lot. The money that we have spent has saved millions of people from hunger, provided relief from droughts and floods, and reduced the incidence of deadly diseases, sometimes dramatically.

Shutting down USAID will be a disaster, especially for the people who rely on its programs. According to the New York Times, American aid saves 1.65 million lives per year via HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment, prevents 500,000 deaths by delivering vaccines, and saves 550,000 people from

starvation. It prevents hundreds of thousands of deaths from malaria and tuberculosis. These aren’t just statistics; they are people, many of them children.

None of this is to suggest that foreign aid should be off-limits for criticism. Even supporters say that aid programs can be prone to waste and inefficiency. Those and other problems should be identified and addressed. But shutting down aid will devastate vulnerable people, and it will harm America. Foreign aid should be reformed, not eliminated.

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LAWYERS

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Weigel’s MeTV provides access to classic shows from the 1930s through the 1990s at no charge to its viewers via its website and app, making money by selling ads. The class-action lawyers allege that if someone who was signed into Facebook were to use the same browser to access MeTV, the accounts could be linked without the explicit consent supposedly required under the Bork Act.

Similar cases have cropped up across the country, stretching the 1988 law to target not just streaming companies, but practically any companies that post videos on their websites. America evidently leads the world in producing entrepreneurial lawyers eager to expand liability in ways never anticipated under the statutes they invoke.

Can we all agree that routine business practices should not suddenly get turned into federal cases? Especially not cases based on rules written for a different era? And hastily written rules, at that?

The same overreach has happened with laws originally aimed at protecting consumers in

credit reporting, debt collection and just about anything involving their telephones. The resulting litigation sometimes seems more like a stickup than a worthy defense of injured parties.

Predictably, the case against MeTV has turned on parsing the antiquated language of the Bork Act. The mighty judges of the 7th Circuit come off as rather lame when they define MeTV as “a video tape service provider” and the plaintiffs who watch a free service as “consumers,” then pompously defend these outdated definitions by saying, “Linguistic imprecision is part of the human condition.”

Other appellate courts have wrestled with the same vague language in the Bork Act and come up with incompatible conclusions. In 2013, after Netflix got stung by exploitative litigation, Congress amended the law. Obviously, it didn’t do enough to make the rules clear and relevant in today’s digital landscape.

America needs strong principles to protect online identity and privacy. It also needs to ensure that its businesses can adopt new technology without getting dragged into expensive and counterproductive court battles like this one.

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