

The Grouse House Gazette

ISSUE #153 – September 17th 2017 www.GHGAZETTE.com www.GILBERTHETHERWICK.com

FACT CHECKING TRUMPS “ACCOMPLISHMENTS”

OK... I know that we all get those ridiculous email strings from our relatives or distant high school friends still following the “Trump Train”.

And one recent one... that I have come across several times... lists 56 supposed accomplishments. It made me really crazy, and in an insomnia inspired five hours of research... I took the note apart point by point.

So if someone forwards you a list like this (I’ve also found it on Twitter & Facebook) you can simply link them to this document. And if anything is wrong please tell me... I can make corrections online. This was a lot of fun.

Gilbert Hetherwick

LIST OF TRUMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FIRST SIX MONTHS.

1. Supreme Court Judge Gorsuch

Thank Mitch McConnell for stealing that from Obama... one of the most shameful incidents in Senate history.

2. 59 missiles dropped in Syria.

Only 23 hit the target and only five planes were destroyed and the mission cost us 76 million dollars. No one was killed because Trump warned the Russians before hand... who warned the Syrians... who moved most of the planes out of the way.... it was all a scam.

Something to make it look like America was “doing something”.

<http://time.com/4730231/us-missile-airstrike-attack-syria-donald-trump-bashar-assad/>

3.He took us out of TPP

Many don't know this... but the TTP does *not* include China and was a well worked out trade deal to boost American economic power in the Pacific Rim while protecting jobs and the environment. By backing out we ceded that power to China for the future. Barrack Obama broke down the details in an easy to understand synopsis here...

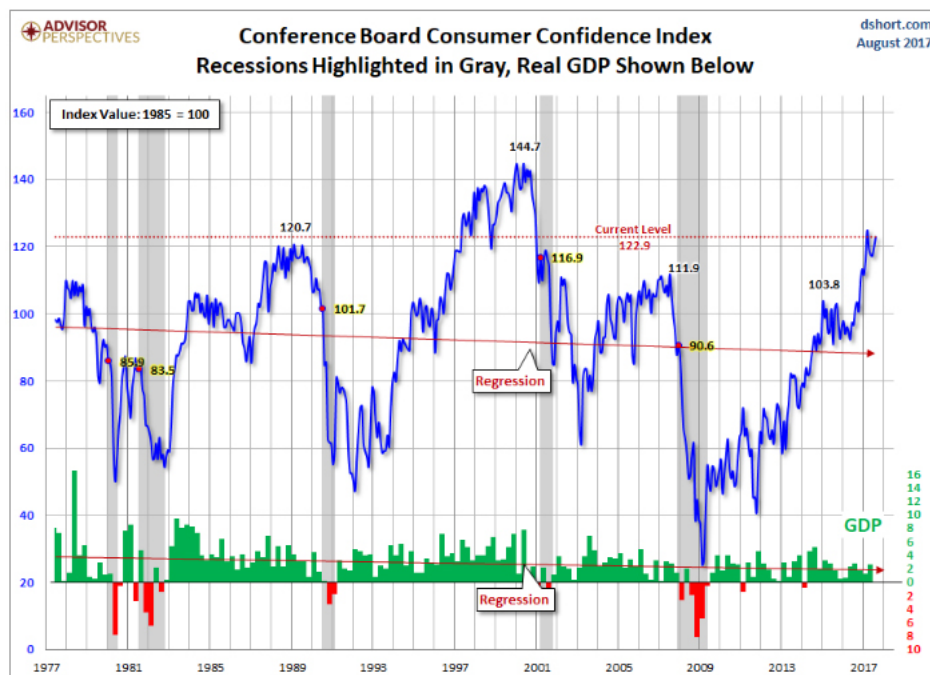
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/quora/what-is-the-trans-pacific_b_12677728.html

4.Illegal immigration is now down 70%(the lowest in 17 years)

Immigration has actually been at net zero from Mexico since Obama was in office. And the overall illegal entries have been going down since 2006 and continue to fall under Trump <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

5.Consumer confidence highest since 2000 at index125.6

It has been rising since Obama was elected. And there hasn't been that much of a change in the confidence rate since the 16 election... check out this chart <https://www.advisorperspectives.com/dshort/updates/2017/08/29/consumer-confidence-improved-again-in-august>



6. Mortgage applications for new homes rise to a 7 year high.

Just more growth off of what Obama already started after having the “Bush Recession” dumped in his lap.... But actually... I think whoever wrote this crap did so months ago... Because in July of 2017 they took a massive downturn and are now down 7.4% from 2016 <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/12/higher-interest-rates-send-mortgage-applications-tanking.html>

7. Arranged 20% Tariff on soft lumber from Canada.

This one is actually true!

8. Bids for border wall are well underway.

Bids are on hold due to legal action contesting bids... <https://federalnewsradio.com/federal-newscast/2017/07/trump-administrations-border-wall-project-on-hold-due-to-bid-protests/>

Also... I'm in the middle of writing a piece on just how ridiculous the wall is. Walling off Texas ranchers from their river water source? And taking their land by eminent domain? A GOP sacrilege! And they already have drug tunnels far deeper than the wall plans. Bullshit!

9. Pulled out of the lopsided Paris accord.

We *can't* pull out of the Paris Accords legally until November of 2020... Just *after* the next presidential election... And it is *not* a “lopsided” deal for America as each country sets their own goals... <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/01/trump-pulls-out-of-the-paris-climate-agreement/>

10. Keystone pipeline approved.

To pump foreign oil from Canada to refineries in Texas to be shipped to foreign markets... so much for being self sufficient!

And the Canadian tar sands are among the dirtiest carbons on earth. It's horrible stuff. And Americans don't need it. Watch this short film... worth it... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sjia7BsP4Bw>

11. NATO allies boost spending by 4.3%

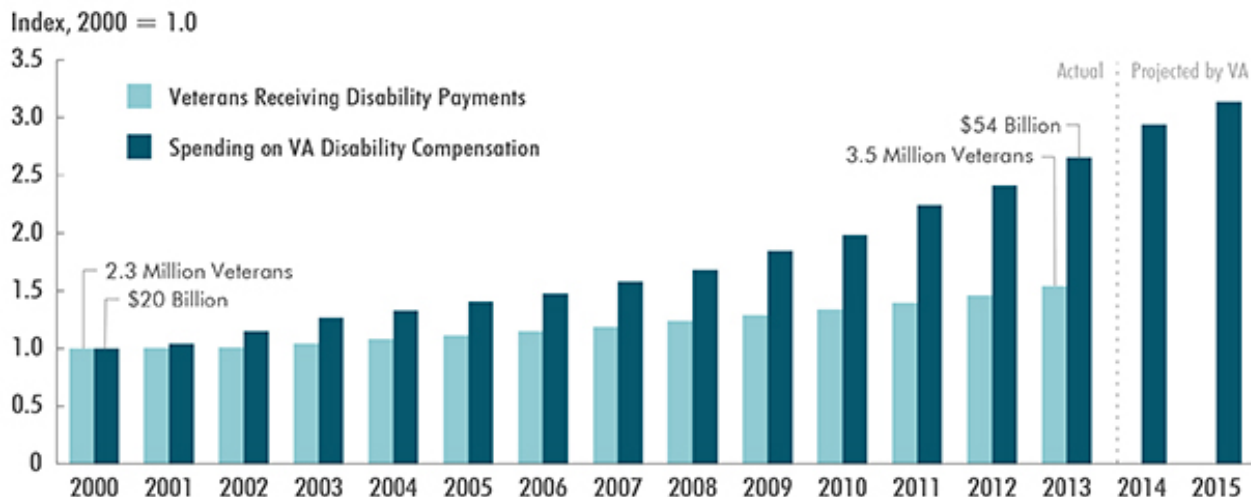
You can thank Putin for this more than Trump <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/28/thank-putin-not-trump-for-natos-new-defense-spending-boost-transatlantic-relations-military-europe/>

12. Allowing VA to terminate bad employees.

What a GIANT step for Veterans! But *where* are the improvements for the Veterans themselves? The VA needs *more funding* due to the winding down of our *two* wars and the subsequent number of increased wounded. Add to this the enormous increase of Vietnam era vets who are now developing various cancers derived from Agent Orange poisoning and you have an explosion of patients.

Here is a chart and a link to information about Agent Orange: <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/12/us/agent-oranges-long-legacy-for-vietnam-and-veterans.html?>

Trends in the Number of Veterans Receiving VA Disability Payments and in Spending on VA Disability Compensation



13. Allowing private healthcare choices for veterans.

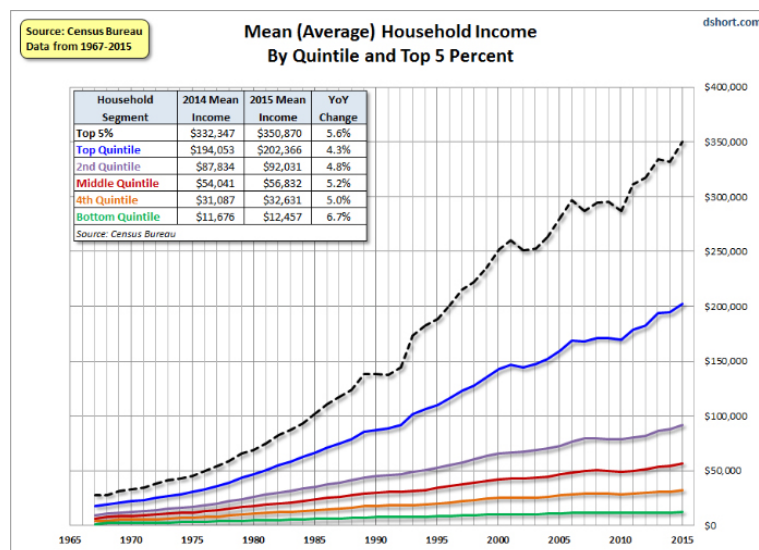
This was an Obama program that Trump merely **TEMPORARILY** extended.... <https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2017-04-19/trump-extends-private-sector-health-care-program-for-vets>

14. More than 600,000. Jobs created.

Whoever wrote this originally was dealing with old numbers. So this crap may have been around for several months. In Trump's first six months he actually created a little over 1,000,000 jobs.... but in Obama's previous six months approximately the same amount of jobs were created... So the Trump months are just an extension of Obama. <http://money.cnn.com/2017/08/04/news/economy/jobs-trump-vs-obama/index.html>

15. Median household income at a 7 year high.

The median household income has not been released for 2017 yet.... But as you can see from this chart it has been going up steadily for decades... Especially for the rich... So it is only natural that it is at its' highest under Trump. As it is always going *up*.... DUH!
<https://www.advisorperspectives.com/dshort/updates/2016/09/15/u-s-household-incomes-a-49-year-perspective>



16. The Stock Market is at the highest ever In its history.

This one is easy.... here is a chart showing the Obama years leading up to Trump... And then Trump's six months. It's just a continuation of the Bull market begun by Obama after the "Dubya Crash".

Dow Jones - 10 Year Daily Chart

Interactive daily chart illustrating the performance of the Dow Jones Industrial Average market index over the last ten years. Industrial Average as of September 15, 2017 is **22,249.74**.



17. China agreed to American import of beef.

This one is actually true!

18. \$89 Billion saved in regulation rollbacks.

This one was rated as only "half true" by Politifact... <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2017/jul/21/mike-pence/did-donald-trump-cut-18-billion-worth-red-tape-mik/>

19. Rollback of A Regulation to boost coal mining.

A sad sad decision for a dying industry. More people work at Arby's these days than as coal miners. This doesn't bring back mining jobs as all the work now is "mountaintop removal". It just seriously damages the environment. Why don't we also bring back "whale oil"? <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/03/31/8-surprisingly-small-industries-that-employ-more-people-than-coal/>

20. MOAB for ISIS (*this is Trump's "big dick" bomb... GH*)

Yes... we killed 36 ISIS members for \$450,000... that comes out to \$12,500 per "kill". Not exactly "bang for your buck"! <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/apr/14/moab-attack-isis-baffling-choice-cold-blooded-terms-cost-afghanistan>

21. Travel ban reinstated.

It was only a partial reinstatement and there is still more court action to come <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/06/26/supreme-court-reinstates-president-trumps-travel-ban/103134132/>

22. Executive order for religious freedom.

Ridiculous... So that redneck Evangelicals don't have to do business with "*those homos!*".... From the same man that wanted to ban all Muslims from entering the United States. Time for some evolution!

23. Jump started NASA

Trump actually CUT NASAs budget... and many employees... especially anything dedicated to Climate Science. <http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-nasa-budget-cuts-2017-5>

24. \$600 million cut from UN peacekeeping budget.

Yes... because peace is such a terrible investment. Also HUGE State Department cuts. So no more “talking” - just “shut up & fight!”

25. Targeting of MS13 gangs

Like they weren't targeted before? The FBI has been fighting continuously against the gang since 2004. A new “boogey man” for the far right. And perfect for Trump's racially motivated agenda.
<http://www.factcheck.org/2017/04/trumps-ms-13-miss/>

26. Deporting violent illegal immigrants.

Every president before Trump deported violent undocumented immigrants. Hispanics referred to Obama as “The Deporter in Chief” as he deported far more illegal immigrants than Trump in the same time period : <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/08/08/trump-deportations-behind-obama-levels-241420>

27. Signed 41 bills to date

Yes and a lot of those were for the naming of post offices and nothing significant whatsoever. Can anyone name *one bill* of significance?

28. Created a commission on child trafficking

And when will we see the results?... And some are questioning these actions - <https://www.justsecurity.org/40461/trump-fighting-human-trafficking-facilitating/>

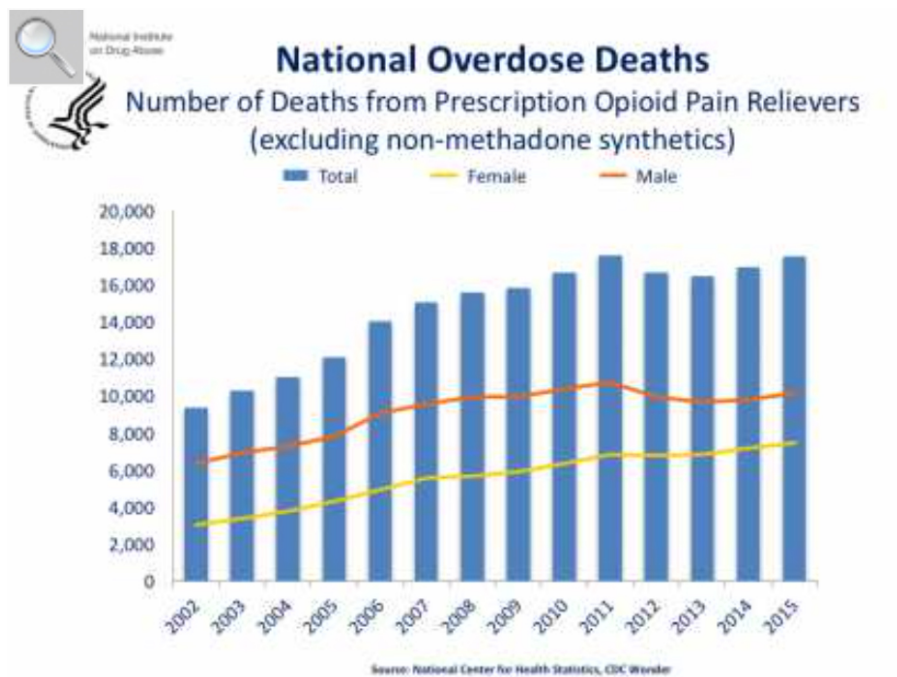
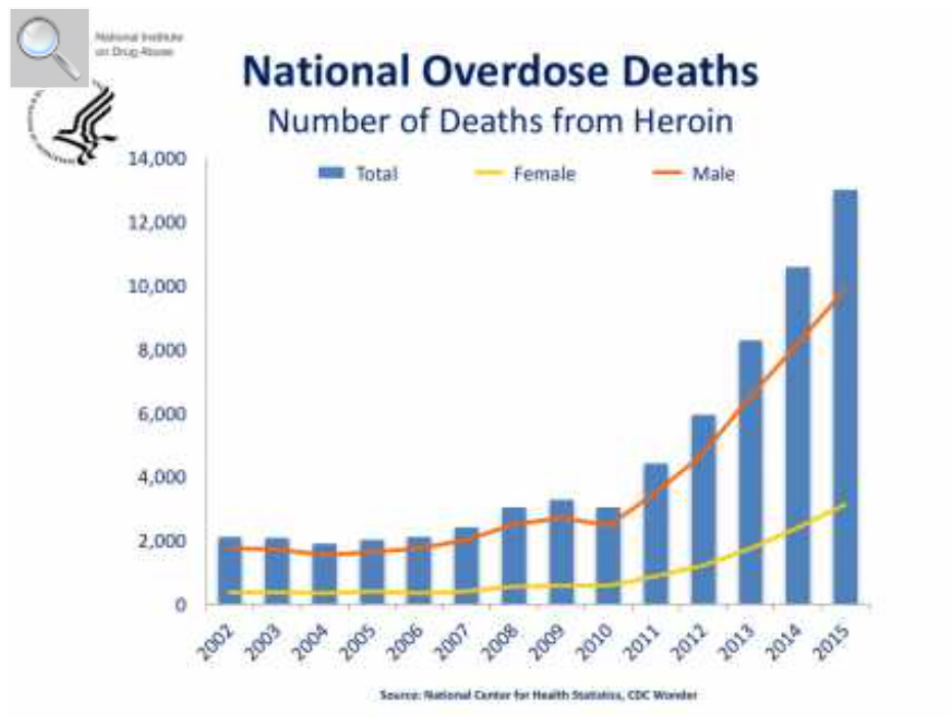
29. Created a commission on voter fraud

And it is a total embarrassment - A complete myth based on the continuing chase down the rabbit hole to those 3-5 million illegal votes. Two good links - (1) <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/09/the-trump-voter-fraud-commissions-data-problem/>

539547/ (2) <http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/12/politics/kris-kobach-trump-voter-commission-meeting/index.html>

30. Created a commission for opioids addiction.

Since *half* of opioid deaths are from prescription drugs and *not* heroin.... When are they going after the drug companies? And with “Fat Boy” (and “ethically challenged”) Chris Christie heading it... How can it fail? Christie has *such* “integrity”. See Charts below...



31. Giving power to states to drug test unemployment recipients.

To quote the LA Times... “This is an enormous waste of money”

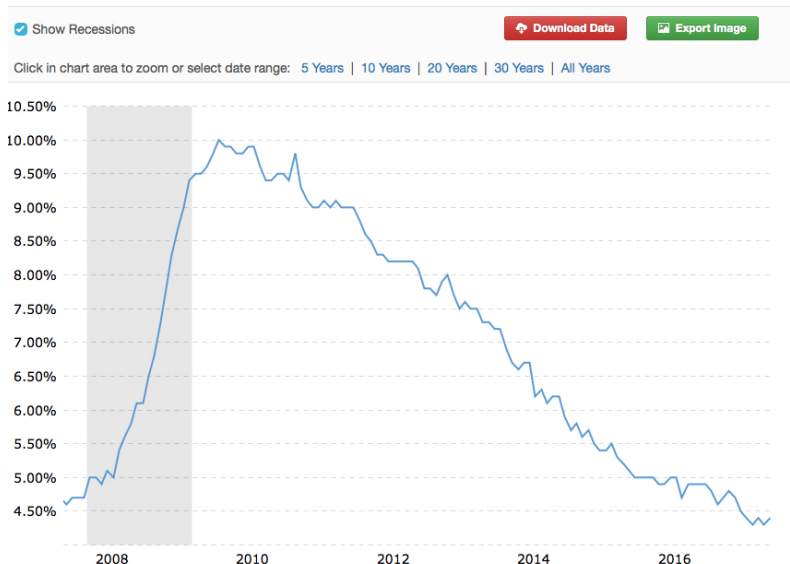
<http://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-hiltzik-unemployment-drugtest-20170317-story.html>

32. Unemployment lowest since may 2007.

Thank you President Obama... This is just a continuation of the job growth under Obama. Check out this chart for the past ten years

U.S. National Unemployment Rate

Historical chart and data for the united states national unemployment rate back to 1948. Compares the level and annual rate of change.
U.S. national unemployment rate as of August 2017 is 4.40.



33. Historic Black College University initiative

Yes he signed the big piece of paper and waved it around... and then did nothing... like he did with many other early “pieces of paper”.

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/08/24/education/black-college-leaders-say-trump-administration-hasnt-made-good-promises-hbcus>

34. Women In Entrepreneurship Act

This was a VERY narrow act which amends the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act ([Pub.L. 96–516](#)) to authorize the

National Science Foundation to encourage its entrepreneurial programs to recruit and support women to extend their focus beyond the laboratory and into the commercial world. It wasn't a broad based act. In other words... this is total bullshit. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Promoting_Women_in_Entrepreneurship_Act

35. Created an office or illegal immigrant crime victims.

What a waste of time... As undocumented immigrants commit fewer crimes as a percentage than legal citizens. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/26/us/trump-illegal-immigrants-crime.html>

36. Reversed Dodd-Frank

Not true... Only some parts he has attempting to reverse... It passed the House but has not yet passed the Senate... Where it will fail. And how can anyone alive in 2008 be against banking regulations and financial consumer protection programs today? I thought that the elephants never forgot! (But with a cabinet of Goldman Sachs guys?)

37. Repealed DOT ruling which would have taken power away from local governments for infrastructure planning

But we don't even *have* an infrastructure plan and the GOP congress will *never pass one*.... (as they certainly didn't for Obama). Although I'm sure they are working on a way to make this a big "win" for the wealthy private sector. Handouts for everyone!

38. Order to stop crime against law enforcement.

Wow... He must be magic... He signed another "piece of paper"!

39. End of DAPA program.

Splitting up families... what a "Christian" thing to do!

40. Stopped companies from moving out of America.

Not True - Companies can't simply "turn on a dime" in six months....
Here's a piece from the conservative favorite - *Breitbart News!*
<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/02/09/companies-moving-jobs-mexico/>

41. Promoted businesses to create American Jobs.

So he thinks he's simply going to *talk* them into it? There is *no plan!*

42. Encouraged country to once again... (GH WTF?)

To "once again" what? Someone must have cut and pasted wrong...

43. Buy American and hire American

What nonsense... Here is a list of all the Trump company products made overseas... <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/08/26/how-many-trump-products-were-made-overseas-heres-the-complete-list/>

44. Cutting regulations 2 for every one created.

This is ridiculous and impossible to research.

45. Review of all trade agreements to make sure they are America first.

Yeah.. Just try to get the traditional GOP to act against trade deals. No wonder Trump is "hanging" now with Chuck & Nancy!

46. Apprentice program

Obama had a similar program - Here are the facts
<http://time.com/money/4820268/trump-apprenticeship-plan/>

47. Highest manufacturing surge in 3 years.

Only three years? So there were higher surges during Obama years?

48. \$78 Billion promised reinvestment from major businesses like Exxon, Bayer, Apple, SoftBank, Toyota...

Partly true. But most have not materialized yet... or were already deals well under way in Obama's final years due to the economy.

49. Denied FBI a new building.

Why is Trump against the FBI? Why is this good? Oh... *that's right...*

50. \$700 million saved with F-35 renegotiation.

This simply is a LIE!

<http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2017/feb/07/donald-trump/trump-overstates-credit-700-million-savings-f-35s/>

51. Saves \$22 million by reducing white house payroll.

Which is why nothing is getting done. All across America we have blank spaces on government walls where Obama's picture was... Because no one as of Sept 15th 2017 has ordered the Trump pictures... Just one example... Along with us not having a S. Korean Ambassador.... Not that anything is going on *there* these days!

52. Dept of treasury reports a \$182 billion surplus for April 2017

It is true that the U.S. Treasury reported a \$182 billion budget surplus in April 2017 (the largest April surplus since 2001 and the second-largest in history), according to MarketWatch. But it is unclear exactly how much of that surplus is attributable to President Trump as he hasn't passed a budget yet. However... April is typically a surplus month because of tax receipts. In addition (citing a Congressional Budget Office review as its source) The Associated Press reported that the April 2017 surplus was "inflated" because of a tax deadline

change allowing corporations to pay federal taxes in April that in previous years were paid in March.

53. Negotiated the release of 6 US humanitarian workers in egypt.

This one is true.

54. Gas prices lowest in more than 12 years.

Presidents have nothing to do with gas pricing... And neither do the oil companies... It is gasoline speculators. And prices were already way down under Obama after spiking to over \$4 a gallon under "Dubya" Bush. For more about how gasoline gets priced and how speculators on Wall Street make a fortune off of hurricanes and oil disasters... check out this link... <http://www.gilberthetherwick.com/ewExternalFiles/Grouse%20House%20Gazette%206.pdf>

55. Signed An Executive Order To Promote Energy Independence And Economic Growth

Yes he signed it.... Now what? Just another worthless piece of paper.

56. Has already accomplished more to stop government interference into people's lives than any President in the history of America.

This is ridiculous... how can it be calculated?

Gilbert Hetherwick www.GHGAZETTE.com

Write me directly at Hetherwick@me.com

Or for more Gazettes go to www.ghgazette.com

Hear my new album of instrumentals @ www.hetherwick-music.com