

From: [David Kraemer](#)
To: [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)
Subject: FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 6.18.20
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From: Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:20 AM
To: MOJO210AL <MOJO210AL@aol.com>
Subject: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 6.18.20

WAGON WHEEL CENSUS 6.18.20 5 Cars 3 Runners 2 Bicyclists 2 Trucks 1 Dog walker and
1 walker

Walking today my mind was focused on the summer of 1972 and 1973. I thought I would figure out a way to synthesize the memories into one coherent message but realized that today it's not possible. As a result, I will have to focus on 1973 today and perhaps share my remembrances of the summer of 1972 and of a truly gifted educator named Michael Rosenak(zl) another time.

Most people fail to recognize the name Alexander Porter Butterfield. Over the years I have asked folks to name their favorite Watergate figure. Many people choose John Dean. Indeed he and Maureen captured the imagination of a nation as he testified in his soft and droning manner about the abuses of President Nixon and she looked on with sadness mixed with a supportive presence. Most people, though, suggest that Sam Ervin was their favorite. His control of the committee and the process demonstrated what years of service in the US Senate teaches. A few identify with Howard Baker—after all his question “what did the President know and when did he know it”, became the mantra for the committee. Hardly anyone selects Sens. Inouye or Montoya and a few still remember Sam Dash(zl). A side note. His niece was a member of my congregation and his name is read yearly on his yahrzeit.

No one and I mean no one selects Alexander Porter Butterfield. But for APB, it is doubtful that the unfolding narrative around Watergate would have moved as quickly as it did. As a result of a question from the GOP Watergate Senate staff attorneys (what a different world 1973 was), it was discovered that Nixon taped his conversations held in the Oval Office and over the phone. The individual charged with setting the system into place was John Haldeman's #2—you guessed it -- Alexander Porter Butterfield. Did Butterfield come forward with this information following the Dean testimony that he was confident that there was taping in the Oval Office but didn't know for sure? No, in fact he said that unless asked a direct question as to whether or not there was a taping system in place, he would have never offered up the information. If asked-he would, if not he wouldn't. A timely reminder that asking good questions is better than knowing the answer sometimes! But for that direct question in the deposition phase of meeting with Butterfield, a different outcome for the Nixon era might have occurred.

I thought about APB yesterday as the news about John Bolton's book began to filter out. The information it describes is truly beyond imagination and the fact that a man is the President of the

United States and doesn't know if Finland is part of Russia or independent is frightening enough. The fact that Bolton details how the President uses the office for his personal gain is horrific. The fact that his own advisors in private are incredulous about his lack of knowledge and his self-centered decision making and yet still enable this behavior says a great deal more about them than the President. And none of this even captures the hubris and disregard for America that Mr. Bolton walks around with. To know this information and to decide that money trumps civil responsibility and patriotism is but one reason I will never buy this book. (check it out a library—well maybe). Better yet, too bad Abbie Hoffman(zl) already used the title “Steal this Book”. It would have been perfect for Bolton's. In a nutshell and without a great deal of further explanation—when the historians write about the horrific period known as the Trump presidency, there will be a footnote that says something like this: *“had Bolton come forward and testified under oath as to what he knew and when he knew it, it is possible that the outcome of the President's impeachment trial would have been different. What impact that would have had for the hundreds of thousands afflicted as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak is something we will never know.”* That footnote in history might be a little more than the footnote that APB will receive, but for some the difference between the two suggests almost everything you need to know about how our society is so much less cohesive today than it was 47 years ago. A republican attorney discovers the fact about a taping system, informs Sen. Baker who immediately demands the testimony to be heard, and Butterfield is called to appear on 3 hours' notice—if I remember correctly(I was a Watergate hearing junkie the summer of '73). How the mighty have fallen and the times have changed. APB never sought to benefit from the information he possessed. Bolton only sought to monetize the work that he had done for the great artist of the deal.

(There will not be writing tomorrow. I have a 730 meeting. Here is what I will share for Juneteenth, however.

Juneteenth Prayer

Creator of life, source of compassion. Your breath remains the source of our spirit, even as too many of us cry out that we cannot breathe. Lovingly created in your image, the color of our bodies has imperiled our lives.

Black lives are commodified yet devalued, imitated but feared, exhibited but not seen.

Black lives have been pursued by hatred, abandoned by indifference and betrayed by complacency.

Black lives have been lost to the violence of the vigilante, the cruelty of the marketplace and the silence of the comfortable.

We understand that Black lives are sacred, inherently valuable, and irreplaceable.

We know that to oppress the body of the human, is to break the heart of the divine.

We yearn for the day when the bent will stand straight.

We pray that the hearts our country will soften to the pain endured for centuries.

We will do all we must to bind up the wounds, to heal the shattered hearts, to break the yoke of oppression.

As the beauty of the heavens is revealed to us each day, may each day reveal to us the beauty of our common humanity. Amen.

(Jewish Multiracial Network) (h/t SB and MG)

Sent by my iPad