

LEHIGH VALLEY-POCONO COMMON SENSE HERALD

THE PUBLIC VOICE ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE FUTURE



March 7, 2020 ***Newsletter*** Vol. 2020 – 2

A JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

An independent Non-Profit Newsletter formerly associated with the Lehigh Valley
Council for Regional Livability, Inc ---.

Publisher and Managing Editor --- Dennis L. Pearson



An Observation Post for what is Happening

COMMON SENSE HERALD TIME CONTINUUM REPORT

2020 IS A LEAP YEAR AND THAT MEANS WE ALSO OBSERVE OUR
QUADENNIAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

BY DENNIS L PEARSON OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY -POCONNO
COMMON SENSE HERALD

COPYRIGHT © DENNIS L PEARSON, 2020

Leap years are years where an extra, or intercalary, day is added to the end of the shortest month, February. The intercalary day, **February 29**, is commonly referred to as leap day. Leap years have 366 days instead of the usual 365 days and occur almost every four years

And interestingly, as it has developed, the four-year cycle of U.S. national Presidential elections occur every four years, ironically during Leap Year.

In other U.S. elections, candidates are elected directly by popular vote. But the president and vice president are not elected directly by citizens. Instead, they're chosen by "electors" through a process called the Electoral College.

The process of using electors comes from the Constitution. It was a compromise between a popular vote by citizens and a vote in Congress.

The reason for Leap Year being: The Earth orbits the Sun at an average distance of 149.60 million km (92.96 million mi), and one complete orbit takes **365.256 days (1 sidereal year)**, during which time Earth has traveled 940 million km (584 million mi)

So, considering these statistics, within 100 years, the calendar would be off by 25 days. And going further out, within a few hundred years, the month of February might end up becoming a summer month or at least an early spring month.



Has anyone noticed the temperatures we have been experiencing lately? Many say this may be proof of Climate Change or is evidence that our calendar still finds it hard to adjust exactly to the Earth's sidereal year...

That be the reason for the occasional one second adjustment to the calendar.

A leap second is a one-second adjustment that is occasionally applied to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), to accommodate the difference between precise time (as measured by atomic clocks) and imprecise observed solar time (known as UT1 and which varies due to irregularities and long-term slowdown in the Earth's rotation). The UTC time standard, which is widely used for international timekeeping and as the reference for civil time in most countries, uses precise "atomic time" and consequently would run ahead of observed solar time unless it is reset to UT1 as needed. The leap second facility exists to provide this adjustment.

Historically, leap years were introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. to make sure the seasons would remain in sync with the calendar.

And additionally, Leap Year has brought us the phenomenon of Sadie Hawkins Day, otherwise known as "Ladies Day," is observed February 29. Irish Legend or History having it as a popular day for women to ask men to marry them on this once-every-four-year event.

Vigdis Hocken reporting in Timeanddate.com that St Brigid supposedly struck a deal with St Patrick to allow women to propose to men – and not just the other way around – every four years.

This concept is believed to have been introduced to balance the traditional roles of men and women in a similar way to how leap day balances the calendar.

In some places, leap day has been known as "Bachelors' Day" for the same reason. A man was expected to pay a penalty, such as a gown or money, if he refused a marriage proposal from a woman on Leap Day.

In many European countries, especially in the upper classes of society, tradition dictates that any man who refuses a woman's proposal on February 29 had to buy her 12 pairs of gloves. The intention was that the woman can wear the gloves to hide the embarrassment of not having an engagement ring. During the middle ages there in fact were laws governing this tradition.

Leap year is also considered a bad luck day, akin to Friday the 13th, according to some countries, including Scotland and Greece.

Melissa Locker writing in Time Magazine February. 29, 2012 that these European traditions of Leap Day filtered into American Society since at least the early 20th century with slideshows of daffy vintage postcards dedicated to warning men about the hazards of accepting female visitors on Leap Day. Picture women with nets chasing after fleeing men and very dour dogs shaking their heads at the sight.

As for Sadie Hawkins, she hit the U.S. pop cultural shores back in 1937, when Sadie Hawkins Day was introduced in pen and ink in Al Capp's classic comic strip *Li'l Abner*. In the comic, Sadie Hawkins was a spinster at the age of 35, so her father set up a race for local bachelors. Whoever Sadie caught was going to be her husband. The town, and the reading audience, loved the idea and the race became an annual fixture of the comic strip, and soon spread into real-life society, spawning Sadie Hawkins Day dances.

The connection to U.S. Presidential elections being that every 4 years, politicians whether they be male or female court perspective voters for their vote and financial support. The voter being warned by these candidates of the hazards of accepting the messages of their opponents and candidates seen fleeing scrutiny of investigating and supposedly unprejudiced media who at times seek to run away from their past socially and politically. Meanwhile, many dour disenchanting voters shake their head at this sight

William E. 'Bill' Vaughan (October 8, 1915 – February 25, 1977) was an American columnist and author. Born in Saint Louis, Missouri, he wrote a syndicated column for the Kansas City Star from 1946 until his death in 1977. He was published in Reader's Digest and Better Homes and Gardens under the pseudonym Burton Hillis. He attended Washington University in St. Louis.

His folksy aphorisms (published in his "Starbeams" feature) are often collected in books and on Internets.

In regard to voting, Vaughan has suggested: "A citizen of America will cross the ocean for fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote in a national election."

And former New York Mets baseball radio and TV broadcaster Lindsey Nelson has quipped appropriately considering what is alleged to be going on

in regard to voting: “If the World Series runs to election day, the networks will run the first one-half inning and project the winner.

But as an author unknown has said, everyone knows: “There are too many Democratic Congressman, too many Republican Congressman, and never enough U.S. Congressman.

In any case as we learned in Iowa, and wonderfully enunciated at a previous occasion by Tom Stoppard of Jumpers fame: “It’s not the voting that’s democracy, it’s the counting.”

And finally, former Philadelphia W.C Fields pontificated what a lot of people do when voting: “Hell, I never vote for anybody, I always vote against.”

So, what does it take to be an individual seeking to become President via the annual U.S quadrennial marathon battle for the same position in this quadrennial Leap Year? A year that the voter formerly had the distraction of witnessing the Summer and Winter Olympics between the campaigns involving the primaries, the campaigns related to the Political conventions, and the Campaigns related to the fall election itself. But everybody knows by tradition or myth (ha ha) that the winner of the Presidency is always determined by the what baseball team wins the World Series just prior to the popular vote in the fall election. That is why I knew that George Walker Bush would retain the Presidency because all the demographics of the surprise 2004 Boston Red Sox victory pointed toward the incumbent President....

Let me stress, being a leader takes courage, discipline, and determination. While a great leader can bring great success, it also comes at the cost of being judged and overwhelmed. The Bible speaks of so many wonderful leaders and how God blessed them for their work. There are many verses and Scriptures that God spoke to encourage men and women who choose to step up and lead. I will include these verses in this story at another time.

But personally, I say, anyone who seeks to be President of the United States must seek to do right for all residents, taxpayers and stake holders of the nation. And should show compassion for the well-being of all people ... Indeed, we all have inalienable rights as individuals, but all of us have certain responsibilities to government and all other individuals as well.

We all May subscribe to doctrines, beliefs, creeds, attitudes, rules, guidelines, formulas, standards, criteria, tenets, truisms, codes, ethics, maxims, mottos, axioms, aphorisms, notions, dictums, dogmas, canons, and laws that

we live by. But as it is said in Matthew 7:12 the biblical rule stressed by Jesus: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," surely would be our best guide for living life and being a leader

To which, Dennis Kennethsson, Gordon Gordonsson and Kenneth Haas, main characters in our past discussions about recent Presidential Administrations in unison say Amen.

But will the gaggle of politicians seeking to retain or obtain leadership in some way or other comprehend or understand. Or is their present condition diagnosed as following: They see without seeing. They hear without hearing, and when they speak they speaking without knowing or comprehending because in their quest for high office and power they have lost contact with the ones they want to serve and be stewards of, they have lost their way, and one way or another, those who have not yet lost their way to reach out, and bring these people back to reality for the common good.

COMMON SENSE HERALD BLAST FROM THE PAST REPORT

A PASSPORT FROM GEO. WASHINGTON

by Gordon D. Sharp, Jr. of the Common Sense Herald

It is a little-known fact of history that George Washington, while serving as first president of the United States, issued the first passport to the first flyer in the United States.

The flyer, a Frenchman named Jean Pierre Blanchard, made his ascension in a hydrogen-filled balloon from the yard of Philadelphia's old Walnut Street Prison on January 9, 1793. His flight took place a little less than 10 years after the first manned flight in Paris on November 21, 1783 of a hot-air balloon designed and built by the Montgolfier Brothers. It was Blanchard's hope to do for the United States what the Montgolfiers did for Europe.

To many people today Blanchard's flight might be dismissed as nothing more than an interesting stunt, as it probably seemed to those Philadelphians who ponied up two to five dollars a head for a ringside seat

inside the prison yard. But in tendering the "passport" to Blanchard just before takeoff, President Washington showed a remarkable prescience of the kind that had served him well through the darkest days of the Revolution. Perhaps he alone of all those present sensed that Blanchard flew for the future, that the direction to be taken by unborn generations of mankind hung in the balance.

Washington's letter of passport concluded in part, " These are therefore to recommend to all citizens of the United States, and others, that... they oppose no hindrance or molestation to the said Mr. Blanchard; and that on the contrary, they receive and aid him with that humanity and good will which may render honor to their country, and justice to an individual so distinguished by his efforts to establish and advance an art, in order to make it useful to mankind in general."

Blanchard, indeed, found cause to make good use of the passport and the name of Washington. After a 46-minute flight across the Delaware River, terminating in a farm field near Woodbury, N.J., Blanchard convinced a brace of semi-literate farmers that he wasn't the devil by invoking the name and signature of Geo. Washington.

Soon more newly minted Americans showed up and Washington's passport worked its magic, bundling his balloon in a wagon, they had him back in Philadelphia that night. "How dear the name of Washington is to this people!" observed Blanchard. "With what eagerness they gave me all possible assistance, in consequence of his recommendation."

Blanchard was no amateur novice in the balloon game; the Philadelphia flight was his 45th ascension, and used it to take air samples, note air pressure and temperatures and the effects of altitude on his own body, all requiring scientific instruments of his day. Although it was his first and last flight in America, Blanchard made 14 more ascensions in Europe before his death in 1809. Curiously, his later career was plagued by disease (literally by a yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia which scotched his plans for a second flight in America), debt and a failed struggle to finance further flights, and the tragedy of his teenage son's death. His second wife maintained the families flying career until it ended where it began, in a Paris street where she fell to her death from a burning balloon in July 1819.

This didn't stop the aeronauts, as Blanchard and the other early pioneers were known. Others followed and persevered when they fell from the skies, within a hundred years, two boys with a bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, took a powered kite to the sand dunes of Kill Devil Hill at Kittyhawk, N.C. and made it fly 120 feet with a man on board. They became the link between the aeronauts ("Voyagers of the air") and the astronauts ("voyagers to the stars")

George Washington wasn't the only prescient person that day in 1793. On his flight, Blanchard took an American flag, just as the astronauts of Apollo 11 would do 176 years later, planting it on the Moon. Blanchard returned to earth with his flag and eventually presented it to George Washington, proof that the "passport" had worked. The Frenchman had also placed on the flyers announcing his flight the Latin phrase, "Ad Astra," meaning "to the stars."

Perhaps he knew what our political leaders so-called (and that includes the current crop taking up residential space in the White House) have yet to learn, that every small step forward leads to a "giant step for mankind," as Neil Armstrong said that day on the moon, and as George Washington inferred in handling Blanchard his passport.

That is the real issue before us in this 1996 presidential campaign; not the "gender gap" (NASA is doing more than any other agency to close that gap), not abortion, (although Clinton's veto has raised it to a crime against humanity) not welfare reform, nor gun control nor a host of other earthbound issues. It is whether this nation can ever again raise men of the caliber of George Washington, who certainly seems to have been guided by the conviction that someday we were going to the stars. Just look at the flag!

Writing after the event, Jean Pierre Blanchard observed, "Man's ingenuity is not confined to earth alone, but opens to him new and certain roads in the vast expanse of heaven." Amen!

This generation refuses George Washington's passport at its peril.

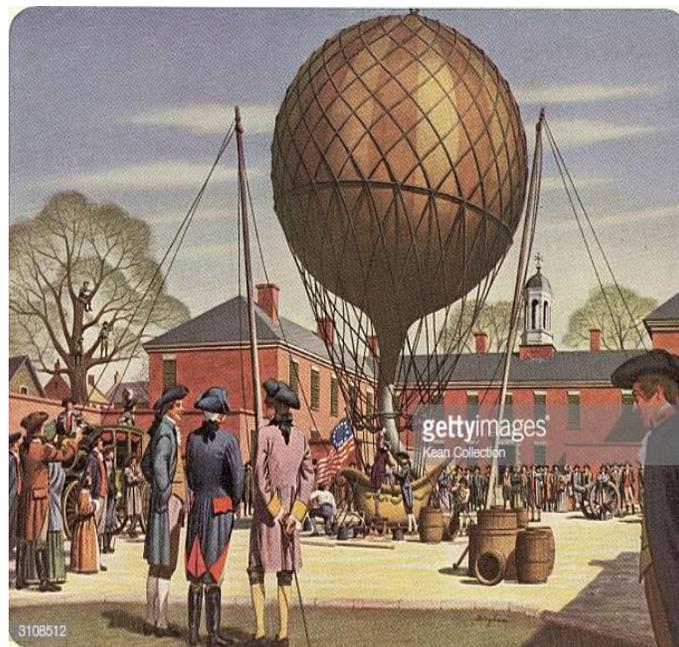
Note:

This article, one of over 50 that have appeared in the Common Sense Herald since its inception of THE Common Sense Herald in 1981, was

based in part on material that appeared in Aviation History, September 1996, "First in America's Skies," by C.V. Glines, pp. 26-32.



Jean Pierre Blanchard



1st Hot Air Balloon Ride in America

COMMON SENSE HERALD LOCAL TOWN REPORT

Editor's Note --- The following article was penned by the late Harrison E. Forker, February 12, 1982, before Hellertown and its surrounding areas became impacted by the construction of I-78 ... The article previously appeared in the August 3, 1987 issue of Volume 6 # 4 of the Common Sense Herald... The late John Strohmeyer of the Bethlehem Globe Times once writing that Harry Forker became

heartsick that the Monocacy Creek he also loved had become degraded with the State becoming the villain in the rape of the stream. Former also becoming heartsick on the degradation of the Little Lehigh Creek

HELLERTOWN MEMORIES

by Harrison E. Forker of The Common Sense Herald

I thank you, Hellertown. You were a great part of my life.

My parents lived here around 1912. My Relatives grew families. And, I was born in Bethlehem.

A 5-cent trolley ride was common to get to Hellertown. So, many healthy memories I have.

Your baseball teams were excellent and exciting with "Dummy Downs", Hess, Fritchman, Hagey and other great players.

My dad Oscar crawled in Lost Cave as a boy.

Many hundred dollars were earned hunting fishing baits in your stream waters.

With a garden hoe, two eight- quart buckets and a four -foot seine on lath I often took the trolley to Pondo's Hotel or the end of the car line and hiked to Russell Mauch's Powder Valley area or to the reservoir mine hole creek. It was fun and productive and kept me out of trouble.

Your spring creeks produced the aquatic Crane Fly Larva better known as the "water worm." Trout liked this bait. Thousands of bait were harvested.

I remember my first 5-inch trout, I hid it in my peanut butter sandwich paper.

Saucon Park produced my first 25 trout limit on wet fly. Bobby Kleckner taught me at age 12 how to tie trout flies.

Furnace Dam was a terrific source of water worms.

Early spring was a special time to lie on the Keck's Mill Iron Bridge floor boards and watch the brook trout. We fantasized and dreamed how we would catch the beautiful speckled trout on April 15th.

Dad caught a record brook trout at the flat rock about 100 yards above the bridge. Dad's 26-inch brown trout from Stevens Dam was a memento at my home.

Hellertown's Mr. Barndt caught many a large trout at the "old" swimming hole below Keck's Mill Iron Bridge.

Many trout and fishing enjoyments between Wagner's Dam and Saucon Park imprint on the mind pleasant memories. For example ---- Al Rankey with his red handkerchief round his neck was lighting up his pipe when spotted in Saucon Park. Bill Sandt, Hellertown's local fish warden under Joel Young, was teased by the kids after he made a stop with his Bricket's Bakery Truck in Saucon Park. It happened that while he chased some of the kids, the others raided his truck.

In those days, the stream was polluted below Saucon Park, the same as it is today. But the stream met our needs up stream between Bingen and the end of the park.

Prior to the establishment of New Jersey Zinc (NJZ) the stream was sometimes low between Bingen and Keck's Mill, but the important item was good quality water, nature's gift to Hellertown.

Then NJZ did it to you and now you know.

The stream from Applebutter Road east through the Bethlehem Steel Company past the Long farm north of Wassergas and C.A. Buck's Estate south and west of Saucon Valley, produced hundreds of fur bearing small game animals for spending money. Yes, Springtown Hill, Hexicup, Chestnut Hill, Buck Wampum Hills along the Harrow Road and Durham, provided an abundant wild life also.

Before NJZ the water was warmer at Bingen, some 50 years ago I took large hellgrammites in the Bingen riffles.

My trout fishing was usually between Wagner's Dam to the slag pile.

Park Hotel is where we raised fingerling trout in the artesian well water. The hotel's ground hog luncheons were famous, and my uncle Percy Fritchman supplied many hogs for a free lunch. My dad won the first drawing at Hellertown's new American Legion Building, a brand new, Essex Sedan worth \$800. And if any remember, Hellertown had the first lady barber. And back then, Hellertown's Legion hard ball teams were champions often.

My brother Charles saved Ed Martin's life in Hellertown's Reservoir. Martin then was corporate chairman of the Bethlehem Steel Company. Those days you had to go through a farmer's lane to reach the reservoir. And my brother and I used to keep our eye on the large-mouth bass lunkers ... Yes, it is easy to thank Hellertown for all the pleasant memories of such men as Victor Abel (Attorney), Al Stair, Al Hoffert, Geyers, Kovacks and others who gave so freely of their lives for a wonderful small community spirit.



COMMON SENSE HERALD FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPORT

Armand-Jean du Plessis, Duke de Richelieu

**Cardinal; French statesman, b. in Paris, 5 September, 1585;
d. Paris 4 December 1642.**

PART 1

By Dennis L. Pearson

Copyright (c) 2009 by Dennis L. Pearson

All Rights Reserved --- No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission from the author.



“If you give me six lines written
by the most honest man, I will find
something in them to hang him.”

—Cardinal Richelieu

PART I

Dialogue 1

A bright child, Armand-Jean du Plessis studied theology as a teen and at the young age of 21 was appointed Bishop of Lucon. In 1622 he was made a cardinal by Pope Gregory and from there rose to become head of the Royal Council and prime minister of France. King Louis XIII was a weak ruler and Richelieu filled the void, more or less running the empire via his advice to the king. A clever politician and strategist, Richelieu expanded royal power, punished dissent harshly, and built France into a great European power. At the same time, he supported the arts and learning and founded the famous French Academy. Novelist Alexandre Dumas made Richelieu a crafty villain in his 1844 book *The Three Musketeers*, and Richelieu's name has since become synonymous with political intrigue and ambitious power "behind the Throne."¹

Throughout history, nations and kingdoms have pursued their policy based on the concept of national interest. By definition, the interest of a nation as a whole is held to be an independent entity separate from the interests of subordinate areas or groups and also of other nations or supranational groups National interest, of course, can be perceived negatively when the interests of one nation are placed above super-

¹ <http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/95sep/richelieu.html>

national interests in order, morality and justice. In American history, to Henry Kissinger, the moment of responsibility was profoundly sobering, especially for one trained as an academic in his case, and in the case of this study – Richelieu in France was trained as a cleric. Suddenly one is forced to make the transitions from reflection to decision, knowing the difference between a conclusion and a policy. No longer would it be enough to be plausible in argument, but one had to be convincing in action. After all, what pitfalls or problems that exists that hindered the successful advance of national interest by any nation was no longer theoretical .And importantly, the interlocutors as Kissinger termed it were not debaters, but sovereign nations, some which had the physical power or were pursuing that power to make their views prevail.²

To put it another way, nations who determine what policy should be pursued to best realize their national interest goals must not forget that this policy must be run against or within the international power structure that prevailed during that period of time. If it is their goal or policy to prevent other states from acquiring such power that would threaten their national interest if such power increase was left unchecked, then they must act to protect their own national interest. Therefore, it is a given that all states will normally try to achieve an equilibrium of power to in a sense create a balance of power by weakening the power and influence of its opponent.

As Kissinger put it; " If history teaches anything, it is that there can be no peace without equilibrium and no justice without restraint." And Kissinger equally believes: " ...no nation could face or even define its

² Kissinger, Henry, The White House Years, (Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1979) p.54

choices without a moral compass that set a course through the ambiguities of reality and this makes sacrifices meaningful ... The willingness to walk this line marks the difference between the academic's --- or any outsider's --- perception of morality and that of a statesman."

According to Kissinger," the outsider thinks in terms of absolutes; for him right and wrong are defined in their conception. But Kissinger through his foreign affairs experience has realized that the politician does not have that luxury. States Kissinger: "He rarely can reach his goal except in stages and any partial step is inherently morally imperfect and yet morality cannot be approximated without it." ³

In the case of Richelieu, our subject for this study, it was his determination that the Habsburg Kings of Spain and the Holy Roman Empire threatened by their actions to overturn the Balance of Power that had existed in his era; thus, they worked against the national interests of France whose main desire was to become one of if not the leading power in Europe. Therefore, Richelieu worked to restore the old equilibrium that existed in Europe before this attempted power surge of his neighbors. But as it often happens, one cannot bring back to its virgin state what has been corrupted. Consequently, a new European order emerged from Richelieu's attempt to bring back or preserve the old order.

With this said, it would be best to set the stage for a look at France in the Seventeenth Century ... Chris Trueman who has taught History and Politics at a major secondary school in England for at least 26 if not more years has made every effort to be as unbiased and objective as possible in presenting the facts and interpreting events in France

³ Kissinger, Henry, The White House Years, (Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1979) p.54

as they occurred in the Seventeenth Century Chris graduated with a BA (Honors) in History from Aberystwyth University, Wales in 1979 and has since studied at Loughborough University and gained a MA in management from Brighton University in 2000

Discussion 1

France in the Seventeenth Century was dominated by its kings; Henry IV, Louis XIII and Louis XIV. Each weakened the power of the magnates and expanded royal absolutism at the expense of the nobility. By the end of the century, France was arguably the major power of Europe and Louis XIV referred to himself as the Sun King – such was his prestige.

The creation of an absolutist monarchy in France was dependent on the personality of the king and the ministers appointed by him to support him in the work that he did. Sixteenth Century France witnessed extremes – powerful monarchs such as Francis I and Henry II who controlled the nobles and weak and ineffectual kings whose weakness was exploited during the French Wars of Religion. The Seventeenth Century started with France stable under Henry IV. His victory in the French Wars of Religion gave him an authority that had eluded the likes of Charles IX and Henry III. Louis XIII was to build on this after 1617 as was his son Louis XIV.

Louis XIII inherited a very complex government system. His predecessors when they wanted to weaken or bypass an institution's power, simply created another to duplicate its functions. A forceful monarch could assert his authority over them all. However, a king who was a minor could not and the government institutions that had been controlled by Henry IV suddenly found that after his

assassination, they had the space to assert themselves again. At nine years of age, Louis was in no position to assert any authority.

At the top of the government was the Royal Council – also known as the Privy Council or the Council of State. This institution claimed that it expressed royal will. Only the king could appoint people to it and normally only princes of the blood (the most senior nobles), senior prelates and magnates were allowed to join. This institution was too large and unwieldy to formulate policy. This was done by six men who were in the Conseil des Affaires.

The Sixteenth Century had seen a decline in the power of the conciliar committees that had originated to execute royal policy. This was now done by departments, such as the department of justice, finance etc. The Chancellor's Department dealt with the judiciary and it was also the custodian of the Great Seal to authenticate government decrees.

The Superintendent of finance (Surintendant des finances) dealt with royal finance (The Secretaries of State led the departments of the navy, army, foreign affairs etc.

The so-called Sovereign Courts had an important role in government. The most important sovereign courts were the parlements and the most important of these was the Parlement de Paris. This parlement had the great advantage of having to register royal edicts to make them valid in areas where they had jurisdiction. The Parlement de Paris had the added power of the "right of remonstrance" – this allowed them to remonstrate (complain) over new laws without fear of punishment from the king. It was this right that gave the Parlement of Paris its claim to be a political and legal body.

The Parlement de Paris had a long history and claimed to be the oldest formal expression of royal will. It recognized the king and chancellor as being superior – but nobody else. It was always at odds with the Royal Council. A strong monarch could control the Parlement de Paris, but a minor supported by a regent rarely could. It was the Parlement de Paris that got the nine-year old Louis XIII to appoint his

mother, Marie de Medici, to be regent in 1610. In 1643, the **Parlément de Paris** set aside the will of Louis XIII and confirmed his wife, Anne of Austria, as sole regent – the new king Louis XIV was only 4.

Could the **Parlément de Paris** reject a royal edict? The answer is not really ... It could temporarily delay action on the edict but could not block it indefinitely. In the process, it should be noted, the potential of the king in holding a **lit-de-justice**. This was a public event where the king ordered the **Parlément de Paris** to register a decree. Only a strong king could do this and in the Seventeenth Century, France had three strong kings!

In 1632, Louis ordered the Royal Council to annul orders of the **Parlément de Paris** while he was away campaigning (making war) as he believed that these orders by the **Parlément de Paris** encroached on his authority.

In 1641, such was the power and status of Louis XIII, that he forced the **Parlément de Paris** to register an act that severely curtailed its right to concern itself with administration, finance and the general government of France.⁴

Dialogue 2

In the Twenty-First Century we look at a political map of Europe and see Nation-States such as Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, , Estonia. LatviaUkraine, United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Spain and France which are well defined geographically And the emergence of the European Common Market or Union comprising many of these nation-states. Now this political map at the conclusion of the Hundred Years War in Europe was vastly different

4

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/france_seventeenth_century.htm ---- Chris Trueman BA (Honors), MA

then it is now ... Germany as we know it, was not then a well-defined nation-state ... Germany was more a linguistic unit rather than a united political unit. The same can be said of Italy ... And many of the modern nation-states mentioned were linked to Monarchical political units which have either diminished in size or disappeared such is the case of the Holy Roman Empire.

In the case of France, at the conclusion of the Hundred Years War she was more than a geographic expression. She was a political unit comprising practically all the European territory comprising modern day France. However, because of religious and longstanding feudal-like practices, France at the end of the Sixteenth Century and the beginning of the Seventeenth Century did not have a great voice or bargaining chip in the European Community of that era. Blocking France from achieving her rightful place or grandeur was the power and influence exerted by the Holy Roman Empire and Spain which formed a vise around France presenting a threat to her fringe border regions.

Of course, when there are no political agreements between nation-states or any political entity where their frontier border regions end, conflict will arise. And as we have seen, what border troubles France had before and after the Hundred Years War had their root cause from the break-up of the Old Charlemagne Empire into three political units. And the story line of significance to the point in history that we are studying has been the failure of one of these units to take root and prosper. Consequently, the remaining two units positioned themselves to absorb the territory of the failed political unit creating new border disputes where their frontiers met.

As we said, in the last part of the sixteenth century and the first part of the seventeenth century, what France needed and wanted was a voice in world affairs. And France had a King in Henry IV who wanted to do just that by working or endeavoring to bring to France glory and grandeur. Henry IV had hoped to accomplish this by pursuing an anti-Hapsburg policy. But as it happened, before this policy could bring substantial success, the King was assassinated. Thus, the government fell into the hands of a nine-year old boy Louis XII; and

the regency that was established until the boy King came of age created a period in France of uncertainty and instability.

And during this period, the truth was that the French nobility proved resistant to Louis XIII's Regent, Marie de Medici, his mother and the favorites she entertained at Court . A key point of contention was the Regent's reversal of Henry IV's anti-Habsburg policy which threatened a return to the chaos of the wars of religion which preceded Henry IV.

We must now ask the question: What stand, or role did Armand-Jean du Plessis, Duke de Richelieu play in this period of uncertainty or instability in France?

As it occurred, Richelieu this early in his career identified himself with the Pro-Spanish faction and ordered the armies under his control dispatched against rebellious supporters of the traditional policy. However, in defense of Richelieu, he also during his first brief tenure in Office as Secretary for the government had dispatched a private army led by Henry IV's Protestant commander, Lesdiguières, to aid Savoy against Spain.

Richelieu fell from power when the boy King Louis XIII sanctioned the murder of Concino Concini. Concini, the 1st Marquis d'Ancre, born November 23, 1569 and died November 23, 1617) was an Italian politician best known for being a minister of Louis XIII of France and the favorite of Louis's mother, Marie de Medici, Queen of France.

This, decision, consequently, allowed Louis's Head of State Charles D'Albert, Duke de Luynes to purge the Council of State of all supporters of Marie de Medici. Armand-Jean du Plessis, Duke de Richelieu, of course, being one such supporter was fortunate to escape with his life.

Discussion 2

Louis XIII of France was born in 1601 and died in 1643. Louis was the son of Henry IV and Marie de Medici. He was king from 1610 on, the year of his father's assassination. His monarchy was dominated by the careers of the Duke de Luynes and Cardinal Richelieu. His monarchy saw an expansion of absolute monarchical power started by Louis XI and advanced by the likes of Francis I and Henry II. The

power of the monarchy was weakened during the French Wars of Religion and Louis wanted to build on the increase in monarchical power that his father, Henry, had introduced once the war had ended.

Louis became king at the age of nine. Therefore, as a minor, France was governed by a Regent – in this case, his mother Marie de Medici. She allowed her favorites, Lenora Dori Galigai and Concino Concini, husband and wife, to do as they wished, thereby discrediting the monarchy after the exalted heights Henry IV had taken it to.

From 1614 on, Louis became more and more influenced by Charles D'Albert, Duke de Luynes, who favored an extension of royal absolutism. Both Luynes and Louis were implicated in the murder of Concini and the concocted trial that found Galigai guilty of being a witch, a decision that led to her execution. Once both former favorites were out of his way, Luynes used his position to expand his power, but also the power of Louis.

From 1617 on, France witnessed an expansion of monarchical power at the expense of the power of the magnates. Marie de Medici was exiled to a chateau at Blois and kept out of the royal court.

Louis had married at the age of 14. His wife was Anne of Austria, the Spanish Infanta. It was an arranged marriage (it had been settled as early as 1611 in the Treaty of Fontainbleau) and it was not a happy marriage. Louis and Anne spent years living apart, and the birth of their son, the future Louis XIV, surprised many but was the result of a rare night spent together. It being said that quite a few biographical writers concerning Louis XIII thought the rare coming together of the royal couple was not the result of his true love or want for Anne, but performed probably out of a sense of duty to his kingdom

Truly, Louis was a mass of contradictions. He came across as modest and reserved but he could be very cruel and ruthless – as the murder of Concini indicated. He was a very religious man who sanctioned murder. He was also a hypochondriac who always believed that he was ill, yet he enjoyed leading his soldiers into battle.

Louis knew that he did not possess the ability to grasp the detail needed to run his kingdom well – hence his reliance on Luynes and Richelieu. However, both men were in favor of absolute monarchy and

they formed a formidable team between 1617 and 1643; Luynes until his death in 1621 and Richelieu until the death of the king in 1643. The final decision on policy always rested with Louis.

To be continued

COMMON SENSE HERALD HEALTH ALERT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19

Coronavirus and what State, County, Township, Borough, City and even Neighborhood officials need to know...

Stories and information about coronavirus have dominated the news, social media, and likely conversations around national, State, County, municipal offices and communities for weeks. Thus, all these officials and citizens can play a role as National, State and local leaders to help ensure that residents receive accurate information and practice healthy habits at meetings, community events and facilities, and at the municipal building.

First, the facts. As of March 6, 2020, there were two (2) presumptive positive cases in Pennsylvania for the latest coronavirus (COVID-19). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based on what is currently known, COVID-19 is spread from person to person, similar to the common cold or influenza.

The CDC website states that for the general American public — such as workers in non-healthcare settings and where it is unlikely that work tasks create an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 — the immediate health risk is considered low. The severity of illness or how many people in the commonwealth or the U.S. will fall ill from COVID-19 is unknown at this time.

- **The CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health both emphasize that the best way to prevent the spread of coronavirus is to practice these good health habits:**
- **Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.**

- **Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.**

National, State, County and local governments should also practice this in their facilities and at meetings/community events. The CDC also recommends:

- **Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, including electronics and equipment.**
- **Ensure bathrooms are supplied adequately with soap, water, and drying materials so visitors and staff can wash their hands.**
- **Provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use.**

The CDC also has resources for emergency medical services workers responding to requests for assistance, and providing treatment and transport for ill persons, as well as for law enforcement who may come into contact with individuals confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19.



2019-2020 --- A Winter with almost no snow