

OPINION

OUTLOOK

Trump Panic

ear is a Manchurian candidate. The constitutional process for that is impeachment. Yet it's not far-fetched to think that Messrs. McCabe and Rosenstein considered a 25th Amendment coup because the idea was also widely discussed in elite media circles at the time. The Comey firing so flustered so many that they were willing to consider nullifying an election five months into residency.

the 25th Amendment Solution for Removal of Trump," declared one May 2017 headline in the New York Times. The thought seemed too far-fetched to write about at the time, but apparently underestimated the lack of faith in American government and institutions among the political elite class. This elite panic was a bigger threat to constitutional norms than anything Trump is known to have done.

McCabe account also fits with what else we know about the FBI during the Comey era. Comey saw fit to start a counterintelligence investigation of the Trump campaign based on thin evidence of Russian contacts. His agents then produced a opposition-research document fitting the Clinton campaign to justify a spying operation on a Trump adviser.

In 2016 Mr. Comey violated Justice Department rules to generate Hillary Clinton on his own. He then tried to protect the email probe. Then to protect himself from second-guessing from Congress, he intervened again in violation of the rules to reopen the Clinton investigation before Election Day. This intervention was done more to elect Mr. Trump than to do justice in the final weeks of the administration. Silver and other analysts

Mr. Comey arranged a media event for Mr. Rosenstein to appoint a special counsel to investigate campaign ties. Twenty-one months later, still waiting for evidence of a Mueller probe rolls on seemingly Mr. Trump's enemies still in power while millions of his supporters are in a "deep-state" conspiracy. This is all corrosive to public trust in democracy.

Week confirmed William Barr, and he has no more to say about some of that public information explaining to the public.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There Are Dangers in Being Your Own Doctor

Regarding Andy Kessler's "It's Time to Fire Your Doctor" (Inside View, Feb. 11): As a self-employed person for over 30 years, I have not found myself facing the conundrums that Mr. Kessler assumes are common. My Blue Cross Blue Shield Individual Plan was \$73 a month 30 years ago and now is \$249. My doctors don't charge \$500 to take my blood pressure or \$1,200 for a blood test. For the part of my blood work that Blue Cross didn't cover for my last physical, my total charge was \$44. Most doctors have agreements worked out with Blue Cross and other health insurers whereby charges are reduced so that the subscriber's out-of-pocket expense is considerably lower than the official fee.

Mr. Kessler suggests that a few doctor visits will blow through your high deductible. That is nonsense. I have a \$6,000 deductible and have never blown through it. The doctor visits, including specialists, have all been negotiated down by Blue Cross to amounts I can easily afford. The only real downside to my plan is the prescription coverage, which is basically nonexistent. Why would I want to go to a walk-in clinic for \$129 when I can go to my own doctor and pay \$66 after the Blue Cross write downs?

MARK HOTZ
Pikesville, Md.

Darn right, Mr. Kessler, online care is cheaper. I'm certain it can detect your colon polyp and your prostate nodule. Your high deductible is due to the Affordable Care Act and the onerous practices of insurance companies that extract almost one quarter of the health-care dollars as they pass from you to me and other providers. Your high drug prices are due to ridiculous FDA requirements that result in costs to gain drug approval that are up to 10 times higher than in Europe or any

other country in the world, plus the pharmacy "benefits" programs that skim even more from your payments. You want data, data, data. Then you want to call or email me to explain why your TSH is over the upper limit of normal—for free, of course.

J. JOSEPH PERRY, M.D.
Salt Lake City

Medicine's big problem today is overreliance on technology. Regrettably, some of today's younger doctors are test-orderers, automatons. Without listening and asking questions and conducting a proper hands-on physical examination, they check off a bunch of lab tests and X-rays/scans and let that data make a diagnosis for them. But lab reports can be missed or erroneous, and radiologists aren't infallible. Far too often physicians miss the correct diagnosis with tragic consequences—usually because they disregard the ancient medical aphorism: "Listen to the patient carefully because he/she is giving you the diagnosis."

ROBERT KOTLER, M.D., FACS

The cancer that killed Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Jobs was discovered when prompt treatment was more likely to cure it. Like Mr. Kessler, Jobs thought he was smarter than the doctors, and tried to manage his condition himself. By the time he discovered his error, it was too late and he died a tragic and possibly needless early death. I pray the same fate does not befall Mr. Kessler.

JAMES M. NACHBAR, M.D.
Scottsdale, Ariz.

It's clear Mr. Kessler hasn't found the right internist or diagnostician.

RONALD G. FRANK, M.D.
West Orange, N.J.

A Rebuttal to Dolan on N.Y.'s Abortion Law

Regarding Cardinal Timothy Dolan's "Abortion's Dred Scott Moment" (Houses of Worship, Feb. 8): New York's Reproductive Health Act, which includes the law pertaining to abortion, is described as "grisly leg-

of inevitable fetal death.

To state that this would lead to many such abortions is extremely misleading. Nationwide 1.3% of all abortions are after the 21st week of pregnancy, according to the Centers

in Europe

fiscal stimulus. Investors are buying five-year German debt, sending yields down to about 0.03% in April, while many cases avoiding similar maturity Italian securities, which yield about 1.8%, versus roughly 0.6% during the same period. Negative-yield debt hit a

economy accelerated amid growing exports. The amount of negative-yielding bonds in the region first began to rise substantially in 2014. The ECB is expanding a program giving banks that

LIBOR 3M 2.683 NIKKEI 20900
22.6% Up from 18.9% in October

Auto market back on discount and shifting more dollars to truck utility vehicles. After too years of small cars on the production to larger sedans, manufacturers have more cars on the lot, which are more in demand. result, sedan inventories are up, and auto-maker profits are up. But the changing emphasis, analysts say, has spawned another problem: how to move rising inventory of SUVs on dealer lots. The availability of unsold SUVs and trucks rose 12% in January over the prior-year period, according to automotive-research firm WardsAuto. putting pressure on brands to pile on more sales promotions. Average SUV and truck counts have ticked high, reaching \$3,995 in the fourth year of the search firm's data. Mean-

Andy Kessler's "It's Time to Fire Your Doctor" (op-ed, Feb. 11), underscores the greater problem at hand. It's clear the author hasn't found the right internist or diagnostician!

The fallacy which is disseminated in this piece is that the "human touch" is obsolete or replaceable. The forces of big medicine and EMR have clearly impacted the physician's ability to spend adequate quality time during a patient encounter. It is absolutely incorrect to believe that performing a physical exam, listening to a patient and face-face contact can be replaced by laboratory tests and a barrage of data. Therefore, it is wrong to mislead the public by minimizing the role of the physician.

The astute clinician can identify subtle nuances which may render the elusive diagnosis. The "Art of Medicine" is still alive.

Ronald G. Frank, M.D.

Urologist

West Orange, New Jersey

Sent from my iPhone