

The End of the World as We Know It

How the USA Fell into Anarchy in just Ten Days

By William Crute

Chapter 1

The day started like any other day in our post-retirement years. My wife and I got up at 6 am, drank coffee, had a nutritious snack and went to the gym. By 9 a.m. we were back home sitting in front of the TV with a nice healthy breakfast in front of us waiting for CBS This Morning to begin. The program opened but not in its usual way. On that day it began with a close up on Charlie Rose's face. Looking straight into the camera with a very serious expression, he said: "*A source at the White House has reported exclusively to CBS that the President had received an anonymous message demanding that he, all members of his administration, members of Congress, and the Supreme Court justices resign their positions.*" He paused to clear his throat, then continued. "In addition to the demand for the federal government to stand down, the message also included a *Declaration of No-Confidence* providing a long list of items that justified the demand for all three branches of the federal government to stand down. He read some of the items listed in the Declaration:

17 trillion dollar debt

Bailouts: Auto Industry, Banks, Wall Street

Impasse in Congress

The Great Recession

Supreme Court Ruling (Citizens United)

Decimation of Families and the Middle Class

Creation of a Welfare State

Decades of Wasteful Wars

Influence of K Street (lobbyists)
Incompetent Management of Taxpayer Money
NSA and IRS Invasion of Privacy
Shamefully Poor Educational System
Influence of Military Industrial Complex on Congress
General Moral and Cultural Decline
Inability to Curb Gun Violence
Ungovernable Size of Federal Government
Obamacare and other Deceits

Charlie Rose looked up from his notes, paused, and continued. “The White House source admitted that the President gets many strange letters from “kooks” but this one was different. The demand for the government to stand down also came with a **Declaration of War**—*If the stand down doesn’t occur within THREE DAYS, offensive actions will begin and will continue until the American public is free of the dishonesty, incompetence, and arrogance of the federal government. The time has come for the Union of our 50 states to end.*

My wife and I looked at one another dismayed. We actually laughed, because what we heard was so outrageously crazy. I grabbed the TV remote and flipped to ABC to see what was happening there, and they were reporting the same story.

Once the channels broke the news, TV reporters were out on the streets interviewing people. Some people were not even aware of the message the President had received, while others had heard it with mixed reactions—fearful, nonchalant, disbelieving, indifferent, excited, and even grateful. Many of those interviewed seemed to agree that the American public in general was angry enough that an individual or small group of like-minded individuals might create and send anonymously such a message, but never in a million years, the interviewees agreed, would our government ever stand down—that was just unimaginable. The consensus from the “on the street” and “watercooler”

interviews was that the whole thing was a hoax created by a kook or kooks in the general populace or by the administration itself hoping to draw attention away from the growing list of federal government snafus.

Hoax or not, I was hooked on this story, and since I'm retired with nothing much to do, I went around our house and gathered up three other TV's and brought them to our family room where the 50" flat screen TV was mounted above the fireplace and hooked them all up in a line making our family room look like a command center, a war room. I sat down in my LazyBoy Lounger and flipped from one channel to another to stay up on what people were saying and doing. After an hour or so of watching the news programs, I determined that most people wanted to know two things—1. Who or what group sent the message to the White House and 2. What the average citizen should do if this thing wasn't a hoax?

After watching the news programs and reading comments on social media, I decided to clean my rifles and shotguns and go shopping for ammunition. If all the frenzy that I was watching on TV turned out to be about nothing (a hoax), the time devoted to cleaning my weapons and the money spent on ammunition would not have been wasted, because my guns needed to be cleaned, and the ammunition that I was about to purchase would be used in target practice or on annual hunting trips.

My wife agreed to watch the news while I went to Wal-Mart, K-Mart and small gun stores in the area to purchase ammunition. Her Barca Lounger sat right next to my LazyBoy. "Don't rush," she said. "I'll tell you all the news when you get back."

It was a good thing that I chose to stock up on ammunition early in the day, because boxes of ammunition and guns were flying out of those stores. Not only did I buy ammunition for my hunting rifles and shotguns, I also bought a couple of assault rifles—one for me and the other for my wife--and an extra shopping cart full of ammunition for the two new assault rifles.

When I got home, my wife told me that it was her turn to go shopping, but she was going to Costco to stock up on food and bottled water. She brought me up on the latest news and alerted me to the Press Secretary's impending meeting with the White House press corps. After my wife left for Costco, I started cleaning

my guns and reading the owner's manual for the assault rifles. Soon after I settled in with my guns, the Press Secretary came out to the podium and all hell broke loose. All the reporters were standing and waving their arms and hands in the air and shouting trying to get the attention of the Press Secretary who was using his arms and hands to get them to sit down. Eventually they did simmer down making it possible for the poor young man to take some questions and give some answers. He acknowledged that the White House had received an anonymous message, which had been leaked, and accurately described in the news media. "It's obviously a prank; it's some angry kook blowing off steam, but we have to take it seriously," he said. When the reporters asked questions, most of the time he said—WE DON'T KNOW. After a long series of WE DON'T KNOW'S, he said this--"Do you seriously think that we, the most powerful nation on earth, would stand down our entire federal government, because of some crazy person's THREAT!? And do you think some group of crazies would be stupid enough to initiate CONTINUOUS OFFENSIVE ACTIONS against the United States of America?" His statement shut everyone up. His comment had a calming or shaming effect on the crowd and even made some of them smile. When he headed for the exit the crowd of reporters softly, and appreciatively applauded him. It was apparent to me that he had nullified some of the fear and nervousness in the crowd and replaced it with confidence and pride.

What happened in the White House press room, however, had had no effect outside the White House. Everybody was still all shook up. So much so, that later that night during prime time, the President decided to address the American public from the Oval Office.

The next morning it was apparent that the President's confident manner, calm voice, and way with words restored people's confidence and positive visions of their future and America's future. But media people were still unconvinced that all was well. It seemed like hundreds of reporters pounced on every Congress person they saw asking them their thoughts and *what if* questions. The most popular question was—Is the federal government going to STAND DOWN? The answers were, of course, all NO'S. The next most frequently asked question was—What OFFENSIVE ACTIONS might we expect? Not one Congress person would dignify that question with any suggestions. Most of them said confidently—if OFFENSIVE ACTIONS are initiated, our local, state and federal law

enforcement people will take care of it. If those forces aren't enough, some of them added, the National Guard in each affected state would be called up and, if necessary, the 82nd Airborne Division would be deployed across the country to curtail OFFENSIVE ACTIONS and to round up the perpetrators of such actions.

By the end of the third day following the demand that our federal government stand down, the media and the country as a whole had calmed down. The craziness had subsided. It was like the whole population of the United States of America had exhaled and shouted skyward—WHAT WERE WE THINKING!?

THEN, on the first day following the three day GRACE PERIOD, at 5 am EST, reservoir containing walls in Newport News, Virginia, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and San Luis Obispo, California were simultaneously blown out by high explosives leaving all three reservoirs mostly empty by the end of the day. These events, of course, got rid of the “hoax” talk. The OFFENSIVE ACTIONS had begun. The war was real. The big questions now were—Who's our enemy? Where are they? Where will they strike next and how?

On the second morning following the GRACE PERIOD, the President's Press Secretary met with the White House press corps and gave them this advice—CALM DOWN. The FBI is investigating the three bombings and all of our military forces on this continent are on high alert. Those responsible for the bombings will be apprehended and punished.

On the third day oil refineries were bombed in Louisiana, Texas, and California. Miles of major train rails crossing the country were blown up, along with many national grain, vegetable, and meat processing and distribution centers.

On the fourth day power generating plants were bombed in the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and West Coast. Municipal sanitation facilities were blown up in many mid-size cities across the country. Hundreds of cell towers were destroyed, and all of these OFFENSIVE ACTIONS were conducted without one person being killed and without one perpetrator being seen. One law enforcement person was reported to have said—“It's like our enemy is INVISIBLE!”

People across the country were angry, scared, and confused. Media people were now asking citizens if they would be in favor of our government standing down. Many of them said YES. Every military base in the country was on high alert and every military unit was ready for deployment, but no one knew where they would be needed.

On the fifth day, across the country, fifty bank buildings were bombed at night along with malls, car dealerships, grocery stores, and restaurants. Sports arenas were targeted, as well, but never when they were being used. It became apparent that OUR ENEMY was intentionally avoiding harming or killing people. Their OFFENSIVE ACTIONS were intended to win the hearts and minds of the people.

On the sixth day, the President did not appear at a scheduled press conference. Nor did anyone else.

On the seventh day following the three day GRACE PERIOD, hundreds of thousands of people filled the streets of Washington, D.C. and other major cities across the country carrying signs that called for the President, members of his administration, Congress and the Supreme Court justices to stand down.

Later in the day, the President announced from the Oval Office that he had been notified by the Speaker of the House that all members of Congress had resigned. He also acknowledged that he had personally received resignations from all nine Supreme Court justices and was in the process of receiving resignations from all the members of his administration. "The federal government no longer exists," he said. "Where we go from here, I don't know. I guess, we the people of the United States will have to start over. The oldest constitutional government on the face of the earth has come to an end. I'm sorry. I apologize. I will somehow try to make amends. Say a prayer."