

TUESDAY MORNING: CHANGING THE TENOR

Once in a while, I indulge in the musical equivalent of eating chocolate instead of a wholesome meal. I'll listen to my favorite tenors on a continuous loop for an afternoon. I have a weakspot for Luciano Pavarotti and Franco Correlli, though the latter isn't one of the Three Tenors.

Speaking of which, this video features a really bizarre event: the Three Tenors performing at Los Angeles' Dodgers Stadium in 1994. Poppy and Barbara Bush are there in the audience, too. What a supremely odd venue! And yet these guys did a bang up job in such a huge, open space. Pavarotti's *Nessun Dorma* at ~1:05 is my favorite cut, but it's all fun.

Now let's change the tenor...

Former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates sides with FBI against Apple

Gates isn't the best salesman for this job, promoting compelled software. Given Gates' role as technology adviser to Microsoft's current CEO Satya Nadella, how persistently invasive Windows 10 is, and Microsoft software's leaky history, Gates comes off as a *soldato* for USDOJ. Do read the article; it's as if Gates was so intent on touting USDOJ's line that he didn't bother to read any details about USDOJ's demands on Apple.

UPDATE – 10:25 AM EST – Poor Bill, so misunderstood, now backpedaling on his position about Apple's compliance. This, from a Fortune 100 technology adviser...~*shaking my head*~

Gates talks out of the other side of his face on climate change

Unsurprisingly, Bill Gates also looks less than credible when he pleads with students for an 'energy miracle' to tackle climate change. This is shameless: first, guilt-tripping minors in high school, second for the blatant hypocrisy. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation continues

to hold investments in ExxonMobil, BP, and Shell because of their yields. Not exactly a commitment to alternative energy there. How's that investment strategy working for you now, Gates?

Fossil fuel-based industries: wall-to-wall bad news

Speaking of crappy investments in dirty hydrocarbons, conditions are just plain ugly.

- JPMorgan expects loans to go bad if oil prices stay low, requiring greater reserves.
- Decreased demand for coal hurting mining companies. (WSJ paywall)
- International Energy Agency forecasts continued pain across oil industry with retrenchment expected due to low oil prices.
- And in spite of the non-cyclical change in energy, University of Texas Investment Management Co. doubles down on stupid by buying more fossil fuel exposures. Must be taking lessons from Bill Gates on 'energy miracles.'

Office of Personnel Management's CIO steps down

Donna K. Seymour stepped down from her role, the second OPM management team member to leave after the massive hack of U.S. government personnel records. She was scheduled to appear before Congress this week; that hearing has now been canceled by House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chair Jason Chaffetz. Huh. That's convenient. Wonder if she would have said something that reflected badly on a previous GOP

administration? This bit from the linked article is just...well...

FBI Director James Comey called the hacks an “enormous breach,” saying his own data were stolen. U.S. authorities blamed China, which strongly denied the accusation before it said in December that it had arrested several “criminal” Chinese hackers connected to the breach.

Wow, I wonder what China could do if they had access to every U.S. government employees' iPhone? Anybody asked Comey what kind of phone he carries?

That's a wrap. I'm off to listen to something sung in a sweet tenor voice.