

NEWS IN BRIEF 4

October 19th – November 8th 2024

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

An investigation has revealed that King Charles and Prince William's private estates are receiving significant funds from cash-strapped charities and public services. The estates, known as the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, reportedly earn at least £50 million from leasing land to public services including the NHS, state schools, and prisons.

The revelation has sparked a backlash with some criticising the monarchy for lack of transparency over its finances.

THE GUARDIAN

The proportion of young people in Great Britain with a gambling problem has more than doubled, according to “astounding” official data that prompted calls for urgent government intervention. New figures revealed a shock rise, to 85,000, in the number of children classified as having a gambling problem. Nearly one in 10 reported that gambling by family members had caused problems at home, while there was an increase in the number who said their own habit led them to lose sleep, skip school or miss homework.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

What Kamala Harris's loss means for black women, by Erica L.

Green, NYT White House correspondent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7DTOrteC8>



an investi'gation [eɪ] : une enquête

an es'tate [eɪ]: une propriété, un domaine

funds [ʌ]: des fonds, du capital

cash-strapped: à court d'argent

a 'charity [tʃæ]: une institution caritative

a 'Duchy ['dʌtʃɪ] : un duché

£50 'million – *se lit* ‘fifty million pounds ▲ *noter que 'hundred, thousand, million, billion*” sont invariables quand ils sont précédés d'un chiffre

to lease [s] : louer à bail

the NHS [en-ɛɪfɛs]– The National Health Service is the publicly funded healthcare systems of the United Kingdom. It was established in 1948, as part of major social reforms implemented after World War II by a Labour government with Clement Atlee as Prime Minister and Aneurin Bevan as Health Secretary (=le ministre de la santé).

to spark = to provoke = to trigger

a 'backlash = a brutal reaction

with some = with some people

to 'gamble [æ]: jouer, parier

to 'double ['dʌbəl]: doubler

'data ['deɪtə ; 'dɑ:tə]

a 'figure ['fɪɡə UK; 'fɪɡjər US]: un chiffre

shock (Adj) = surprising

a shock rise: une montée surprise

85,000 – *se lit* “eighty-five thousand”

one in 10: un sur 10

an in'crease [s] **in the number**: une augmentation du nombre de gens

to lead, **led**, led

to lose, lost, lost

to skip school: sécher les cours

0:05 – **President-Elect** - Donald Trump, who has just won the US presidential race, is President-Elect, i.e. he has been elected president but has not yet taken office. Inauguration day (= *investiture*) will take place on January 20th, 2025

0:10 – **to stand** (stood, stood) **out**: se distinguer

0:20 – **had she been victorious** = if she had been victorious

0:32 – **to hold the 'office**: ici, exercer la fonction de président

0:38 – **to seek** [i:] (sought, sought): chercher

0:45 – **to 'rally** ['ræli] = to call together for a common purpose

1:14 – **'overnight**: du jour au lendemain

1:30 – **to walk a 'tightrope** [aɪ] : marcher sur la corde raide

2:02 – **to dis'parage** [dɪ'spærɪdʒ]: déprécier, déconsidérer

2:06 – **to peddle in lies**: propager des mensonges

2:36 – **a vindi'cation** = a defense

2:40 – **to fall short of sth**: ne pas être à la hauteur de

3:03 – **to grapple with** [æ]: lutter ou se débattre avec

Democrats need to understand: Americans think they're worse. Blaming America for Donald Trump's success only guarantees more of it

The Economist

Lexington

November 7th, 2024

If you think Donald Trump is too crass or cruel or incompetent to be president—if you are disappointed or even astonished that, having tried and failed to subvert the will of the people in the last election, he has come back to win fair and square—you should be asking yourself this question: why, to so many Americans, does the Democratic Party seem worse?

This victory is a tremendous achievement for Mr Trump, who after his loss in 2020 and the attack on the Capitol on January 6th 2021 was counted out even by leaders of his own party. At the time Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, who privately regarded Mr Trump as “a sleazeball” and “stupid”, called the insurrection “further evidence of Donald Trump’s complete unfitness for office”, according to reporting he has not disputed in a new biography by Michael Tackett, a journalist.

Yet what might seem a psychological frailty—an inability to brook criticism or concede mistakes, much less defeat—has for Mr Trump been a mighty source of political strength, one that intensifies his connection to the voters he has made the base of the Republican Party. (...)

Mr Trump has shown courage, not only in weathering assassins’ attacks but in insisting on views on trade, entitlements and other matters that a few years ago were heresy within his party. With his sophisticated grasp of new and legacy media and his instinct for the basic needs and fears of many Americans, he has revolutionised how American politics is conducted and shifted the policy terrain over which it is waged. In terms of disrupting what came before, he has had more impact than even Ronald Reagan.

Unlike Reagan—or the other two-term presidents since, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama—Mr Trump has never been very popular, though he may have managed, in this third run as the Republican nominee, at last to win the popular vote. (...)

Democrats have good reason to think Mr Trump repels many voters when he calls adversaries “vermin” or “the enemy from within” or says illegal immigrants are “poisoning the blood of our country”. Yet, after this victory, whatever disdain Democrats have for Mr Trump should be cause only for humility and self-scrutiny. As in 2016, Mr Trump’s broad support will present his adversaries with a Rorschach test in which they can see their preferred image of America, and it will be ugly. For some, white supremacy and misogyny will explain Mr Trump’s success, while others may attribute it to tax cuts and greed. Some will conclude that poor, non-white or female Americans have been ensorcelled into voting against their self-interest. Rather than retreat into some grand theory, they would do better to think through how, in a divided country, Joe Biden might have nudged the balance a few points away from Mr Trump, rather than towards him. Kamala Harris was no bystander, but prime responsibility lies with the president she served.

Mr Biden did not heed his own warnings about Mr Trump. He tried to eat into Mr Trump’s support with blue-collar workers through giant investments in manufacturing and infrastructure that offered something to everyone. (...)

Most egregious, Mr Biden resharpened Mr Trump’s most effective political wedge by doing away with obstacles he had created to illegal immigration, providing no alternative. By the time he restored some of Mr Trump’s restrictions this spring, more than 4m migrants had crossed the southern border, compared with fewer than 1m under Mr Trump. That was terrible for the Democrats as a party, and worse for people they want to help and the cause they believe in: under Mr Biden, Americans who say they want a decrease in legal immigration rose from a minority to a majority, as did the number who favour mass deportation.

(...) In the short time Ms Harris had, she ran a good campaign. But any politician would have struggled under such burdens. She could not separate herself enough from Mr Biden, or from the video Mr Trump’s ads used, to devastating effect, of her recently declaring positions that were alienating to most Americans.

“We have learned again that democracy is precious,” Mr Biden proudly declared during his inaugural address almost four years ago. “Democracy is fragile. And at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.” Now it has prevailed again. Will Democrats get the message this time?

To blame sb for sth = to accuse sb of sth

Lexington is the name of column focusing on US

politics and culture in *The Economist*, a weekly British magazine that leans right on economic matters but left on social issues.

crass: grossier

fair and square = within the rules

a sleazeball = a very unpleasant person

to brook = to tolerate

to weather = to survive

a Rorschach [ˈrɔːʃɑːk] **test** = a type of psychological test where the way you interpret an inkblot gives indication of your personality traits, interests and conflicts.

to nudge = to give some encouragement to sth

to heed = to listen to and consider

egregious [ɪˈɡriːdʒəs] = flagrant

a wedge = an idea that causes division