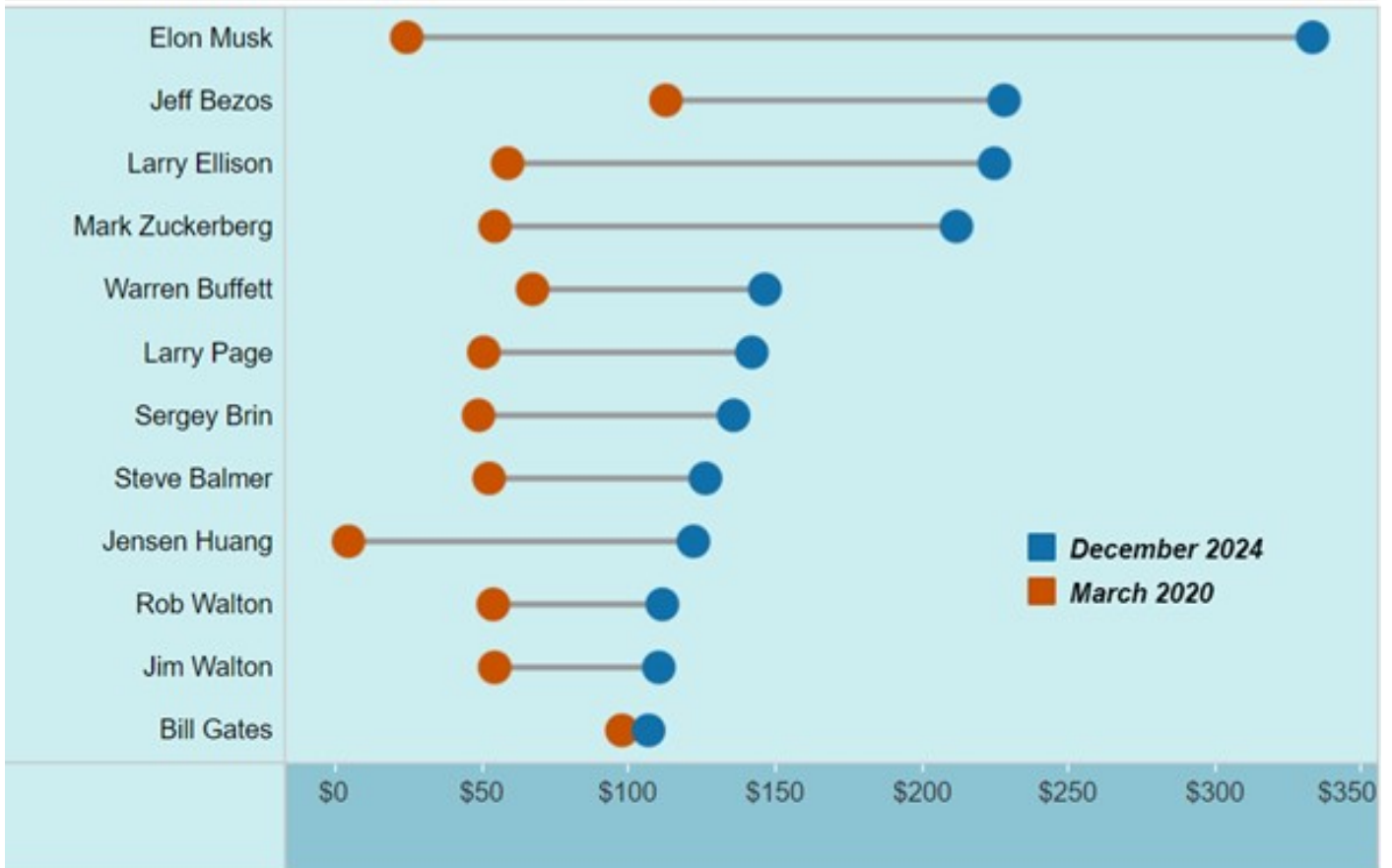


WATCH THE VIDEO

- WH Questions:
 - Who is the interviewee?
 - What is he doing?
 - What has he found out?

The Wealth of the Top 12 U.S. Billionaires Has Soared

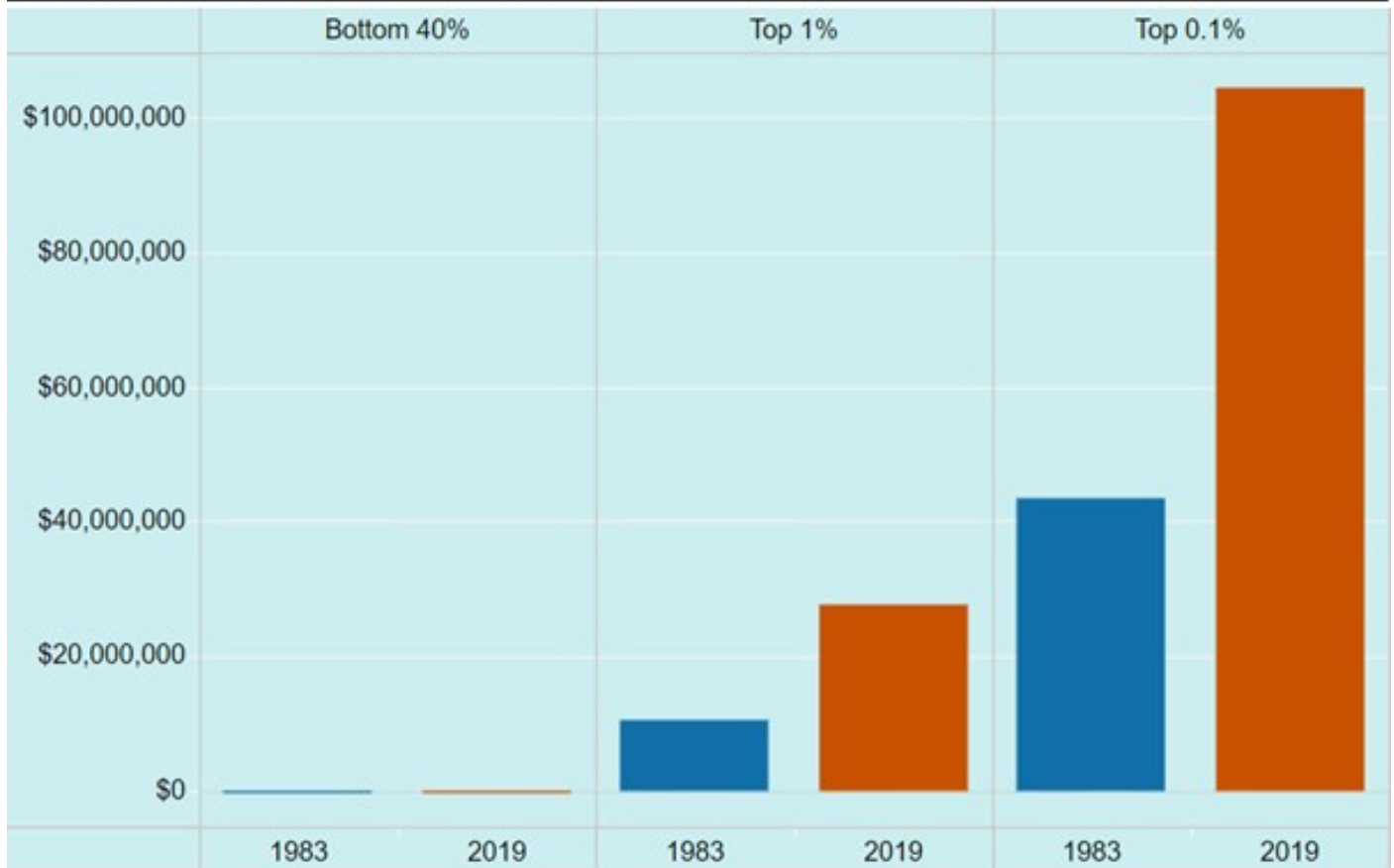
Net worth, March 18, 2020 and December 3, 2024 (\$billions)



Source: *Forbes*

The Rich Have Become Richer as the Poor Have Gone Under Water

Average household wealth in 2019 dollars



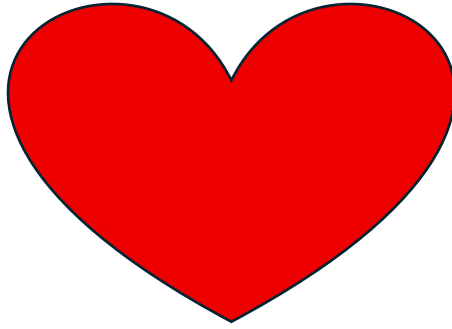
Source: National Bureau of Economic Research

The gap between rich and poor is _____

≠

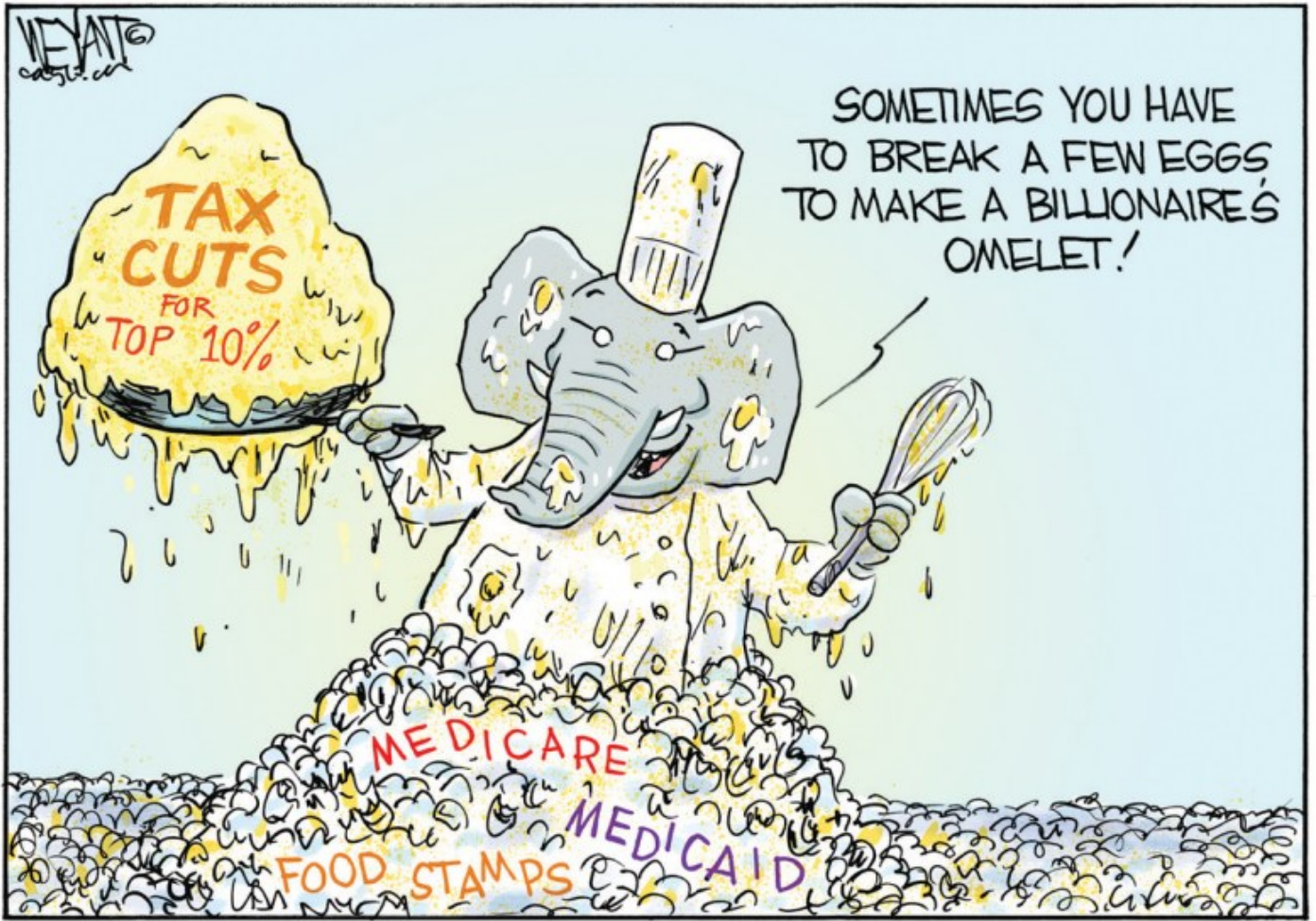
Le fossé se rétrécit = the gap is _____

Comblé un fossé = to _____ a gap



“I don’t think that we should have billionaires because, frankly, it is so much money in a moment of so much inequality, and ultimately, what we need more of is equality across our city and across our state and across our country.”

Zohran Mamdani, 2025



Christopher Weyant, May 29, 2025



Ann Telnaes, January 2025

The cartoon was **rejected** by the Washington Post, after which Ann Telnaes quit in protest.

The Washington Post still conjures up, for some, the promise of fiercely independent investigative journalism that can unseat a corrupt president. In what became one of the biggest stories of the 20th century, Richard Nixon (1969-74) was forced to resign the presidency in 1974, halfway through his second term, following an investigation by Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward.

After months of work the reporting team linked Nixon and his campaign staff to illegal donations, and to the bugging and sabotage of political opponents including a break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the _____ building, Washington DC. Their work won a Pulitzer prize.

This kicked off decades of investigative journalism and breaking stories that has cemented the Post's global reputation.

Ever since the Watergate scandal, the Washington Post has been a symbol of independent investigative journalism.

So the recent memo by billionaire owner of the Post, Jeff Bezos, declaring that the newspaper's opinion section will now be restricted to pieces supporting "personal liberties and free markets" (and not opposing viewpoints) came as a shock not only to loyal liberal readers and to some journalists, but also to those who see the Post as a bastion of media freedom. Bezos said on X that differing opinions can be "left to be published by others".

The decision by Bezos prompted the opinion editor David Shipley to resign and Elon Musk to tweet "Bravo, @JeffBezos!" The paper's newly appointed economics reporter Jeff Stein also took to X to respond to Bezos's tweeted memo by calling it a "massive **encroachment**" (=) by his new boss.

He added: "I still have not felt encroachment on my journalism on the news side of coverage, but if Bezos tries interfering with the news side I will be quitting immediately and letting you know." Some sources suggest that the Post has lost 75,000 digital subscribers since the decision was announced.

To many the Post's reputation was already becoming tarnished. Bezos rocked his readership back in October 2024 when he refused to **endorse** (=) a candidate in the presidential election for the first time in 36 years.

According to the paper the decision led to 250,000 readers cancelling their subscriptions. Woodward and Bernstein said the decision "ignores the Washington Post's own overwhelming reportorial evidence on the threat Donald Trump poses to democracy".

And so it came as no surprise at Trump's inauguration that Bezos could be seen seated prominently beside his fellow tech billionaires Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, X's Elon Musk and Google's Sundar Pichai.

But is all lost? The Washington Post has always had its share of bold and outspoken reporters and commentators and, on Friday, Post columnist Dana Milbank wrote a strongly worded opinion piece in which he said that readers were worried that Bezos's words, "are cover for a plan to turn this into a MAGA-Friendly outlet".

In January the newspaper's Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist, Ann Telnaes, resigned after the Post refused to publish a satirical cartoon of a group of tech and media billionaires (that included Bezos and Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg) laying bags of cash before a statue of Trump.

Nevertheless, Post reporters have continued to focus national coverage on the wide-ranging effects of Trump's executive orders, the sacking of senior military leaders and Doge's culling of resources and jobs in the public sector.



What conclusion can be drawn from these three paragraphs?

There's no telling how much freedom and independence journalists and cartoonists still have at The Washington Post.

Back when Bezos took over the paper in August 2013 the New York Times quoted a fellow tech entrepreneur, Redfin CEO Glenn Kelman, as saying in a now prophetic line: “It used to be that in Silicon Valley we just built the platforms and someone else wrote the content. But that is changing. The lines have been blurred for a long time, and this is just another step in that process.”

Twelve years on the “**broliarchy**” may not be writing the content, but is it restricting it? In these uneasy times in Washington there appears to be a growing erosion of press freedom as the new administration moves to limit access to the White House for mainstream media such as the Associated Press in favour of pro-Trump media.

OLIGARCHY /'ɒlɪgɑːki/ = a government in which a small group exercises control especially for corrupt and selfish purposes

Broligarchy /'brəʊlɪgɑ:ki/

A small group of **men**, especially men owning or involved in a **technology business**, who are extremely **rich and powerful**, and who have or want **political influence**.

Cambridge Dictionary

Whether the Post will come down on the side of press freedom or is banking on an eventual post-Trump bump to stem its declining sales is unclear.

L → Translate this sentence into French.

On ne sait pas encore si le Post se rangera du côté de la liberté de la presse ou s'il mise sur un rebond qui finira par arriver après le départ de Trump pour enrayer la baisse de ses ventes.

Eventual = Final

Whether....is unclear
=
It is unclear whether...

To stem = enrayer / stopper