

COVID-19: Herbert Hoover, Donald Trump and Fake News

by Phillip W. Weiss

Situated below is a pic of the front page of May 6, 2020 edition of AM Metro New York.



The front page contains a pic of President Donald Trump and President Herbert Hoover. Above their heads is a question: Who's Worse? Today President Hoover is known as a do-nothing president who failed to alleviate the suffering of the American people during the Great Depression. Thus, the message of the pic is clear: Just like Hoover, who lost his bid for re-election in 1932, Trump is also a do-nothing president who is oblivious to the needs of the American people and, like Hoover, should not be re-elected. Obviously, AM Metro New York is no friend of Donald Trump.

To imply, as the pic does, that President Hoover sat idly by in the White House while the economy rapidly deteriorated is wrong. Hoover was a professional engineer, so under Hoover things got built. During the Hoover

administration the American people built or initiated planning for some of the most famous and iconic engineering projects in history. These projects included the George Washington Bridge, the Empire State Building and Chrysler Building in New York City, the current Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, and the Golden Gate Bridge. During the Hoover administration, planning was completed for the construction of the Boulder Dam, later renamed the Hoover Dam in Hoover's honor, and for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and planning was begun for the construction of the Lincoln Tunnel that connects New Jersey and New York, and work began on Rockefeller Center in New York City. The pic fails to include any mention of these notable accomplishments. Instead the paper uses the name of Herbert Hoover to launch a political attack against the current president. That is not news. Rather, it is political spin, also known as Fake News.

This is not to suggest that the Hoover administration did an excellent job of responding to the Great Depression or that the American people were wrong to vote him out of office. Rather, the publishers of AM Metro New York need to better familiarize themselves with ALL the facts relating to the career and administration of President Hoover before invoking his name for purposes that have nothing to do with reporting the news or educating the public.

Sources:

<https://www.austincc.edu/lpatrick/his2341/tragic.html>

Below are pics of projects built or planned during the administration of President Herbert Hoover. (source: Bing.com)



