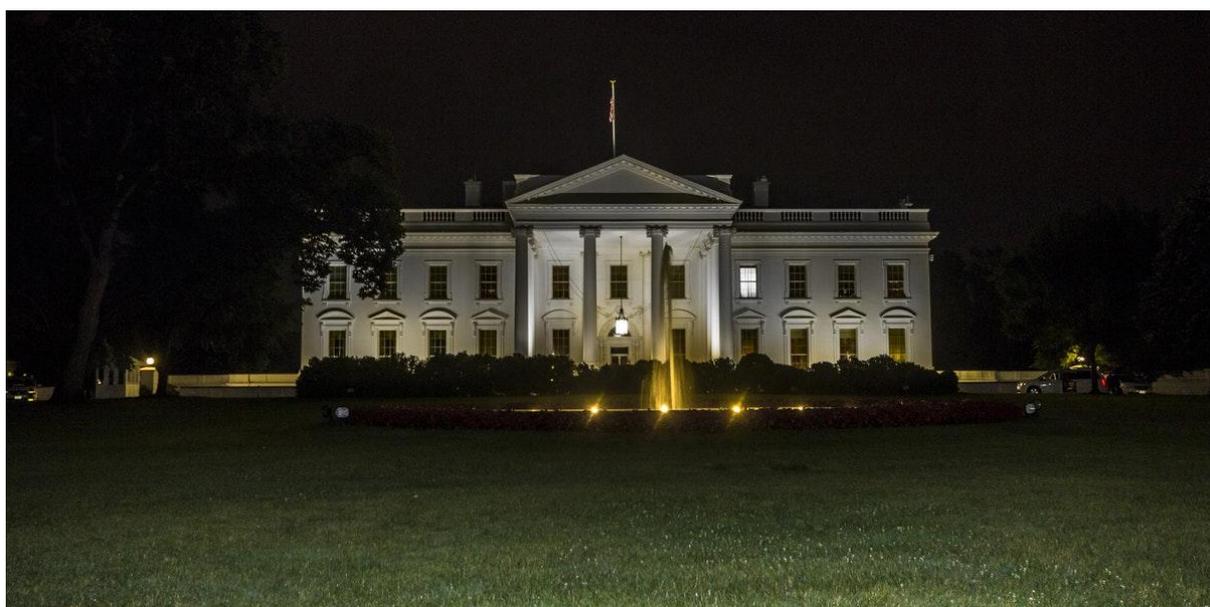


Opinion

WHAT ARE THEY HIDING?

NO TRANSPARENCY IN SMITH’S WHITE HOUSE

By Edward T. O’Real - Gone are the halcyon days of the 2028 campaign trail. Gone are the promises of a more honest and transparent White House. Eight months out from the election, President Smith’s White House has proven to be just as tight-fisted with the press as his predecessor’s. Indeed, it may be more so. Longtime readers of this column may have noticed that I have been using fewer and fewer quotes from administration sources. This is not because I have stopped asking officials for information, but because they have stopped answering them. Journalists are ignored; emails have gone unanswered; requests for interviews have been declined. President Smith, in fact, has not held a press conference in over a year. All this begs the question: *what are they hiding?*



The New Arms Race - China's Growing Nuclear Arsenal

By Dr. E. X. Pert - We are in a new cold war. And we are losing.

At its recent military parade, the Chinese armed forces unveiled their newest generation of nuclear technology. The scale of this new Chinese weapons system may not be known, but one thing surely is: the US is falling behind. While Chinese technology increasingly relies on next-generation weapons technology, both in terms of delivery systems and warheads, the US nuclear weapons stockpile still relies on decades-old technology. This is a major strategic liability that we cannot tolerate any longer. A significant investment in nuclear R&D is long overdue.

But that is not the only reason to be concerned. Satellite



imagery also indicates that China has expanded its uranium enrichment significantly, presumably to increase its quantities of enriched uranium. The government claims that these expansions are to accommodate an increase in civilian nuclear power, but this seems dubious. Satellite imagery has not shown significant construction at existing nuclear power plants, nor has it shown construction of new plants. There is no indication that China is increasing its investment in civilian nuclear power at all.

The only conclusion is that China is trying to expand and modernize its nuclear weapons

arsenal, and that they are succeeding.

The Smith Administration simply cannot continue America's decades-long nuclear stagnation. Serious investments in modernizing our nuclear weapons stockpile are desperately needed. Of course, few in this country acknowledge this reality. One need only look at the latest polls, which show 68% of Americans oppose modernizing our nuclear stockpile. But this nuclear pacifism, however well-intentioned, is unrealistic at best and will doom this country at worst. Losing an election is worth saving the country.