

THURSDAY MORNING: THINGS ARE GONNA' CHANGE

After Tuesday's primaries and last night's Democratic candidates' debate, surely something will change in messaging and outreach.

And surely something will change on the other side of the aisle given the continued rampage of 'Someone With Tiny Hands.'

Calls to mind an animated movie popular with my kids a few years ago.

Moving on...

Volkswagen and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Week

- USD0J subpoenaed VW under recent banking law (CNBC) – This is the first such application of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA) since it was signed into law in 1989 in response to the savings and loan scandal. The law was used to target bank fraud in subprime mortgages after the 2008 financial crisis. (Caveat: that link at CNBC autoplays video. Bad practice, CNBC very bad.)
- VW's US CEO Michael Horn departs with marked haste (Bloomberg) – Huh. Interesting timing, that. A

subpoena and an exit inside 48 hours? The phrases “mutual agreement” and “leave to pursue other opportunities” are very telling. IMO, Volkswagen Group’s response to the scandal has been lackluster to obstructionist, and Horn might not want to be the automaker’s sin eater here in the U.S.

- Not looking good in Germany for VW, either, as prosecutors expand their investigation (Business Insider) – 17 employees now under scrutiny, up from six.
- VW’s South Korean offices raided (Reuters) – Wondered when South Korea would catch up after all the recent happy-happy about clean diesel passenger vehicle sales.

I feel like I’m telling a child Santa Claus is a lie and the Easter Bunny doesn’t exist, but it’s important to this scandal to grasp this point:

There is no clean diesel technology. There is no clean diesel technology coming any time soon.

Invoke a little Marcus Aurelius here and look at this situation and its essential nature, by asking why VW cheated and lied and did so for so long.

Because there is no clean diesel technology.

And the clock is tick-tick-ticking – the court case in California gave VW 30 days to come up with a technical solution. Mark your calendar

for March 24, people.

A – Apple, B – Bollocks, C – Cannot...

- Tech dude says FBI can crack the San Bernardino shooter's iPhone 5C, but I think he's really reaching. Can't get past A-for-Acid etching processor, or A-for-Apple signing FBI-written firmware. Options cited are extremes, and ridiculous considering the FBI screwed up the iPhone's handling, and there's likely little useful on the device that can't be traced using available metadata.
- Another dude suggests Apple should compromise on encryption, because France! Where are these tech dude bros coming from? Didn't they get the message from the Bush years about "cheese-eating surrender monkeys"?
- Apple's head of service worries about FBI forcing Apple to turn on iPhone cameras.

Panopticonic POV

- Defense Department used surveillance drones over U.S. for a decade (USA Today) – All legit, though,

nothing to see here, move along. Disregard the incomplete list of flights, just trust.

- What will happen when your neighbors can buy a StingRay on the cheap to listen in on your cellphone calls? (Bloomberg) – Worse thought: what if they've already built one?
- If you're a commercial trucker, chances are anybody can track you (Naked Security) – Read this, especially the pointers at the bottom of the article. (Personal tip from me: If you're a female trucker, use a gender neutral name or initials in the workplace. Insist your employer respects this practice.)

That's enough damage for one day. Things have got to change.