Common Sense took a serious turn for the worse when ordinarily intelligent people stopped listening to and reading their usual reliable sources for facts and information and solely paid attention to rumors, innuendoes, gossip, and misinformation passed along in deliberately biased and social media.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,
• by his parents, Truth and Trust,
• by his wife, Discretion,
• by his daughter, Responsibility,
• and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his stepchildren:
• I Want Something for Nothing
• I Want It Now
• Someone Else Is To Blame
• I Didn’t Know
• My Friend Read It In A Group Text Chat

Since our last column, probably the biggest news from Congress was the passage of the $1 trillion infrastructure bill. President Joe Biden signed it into law on Nov. 15, 2021. The irony, of course, is that it took a year to win bipartisan support for a bill that everyone knew was a necessity. The infrastructure legislation was a running joke during the prior administration. It was touted but never seriously pursued and took backseat to tax cuts for the rich. Mr. Biden promised it and the Democrats got it done, no easy task given reluctant Republicans in the House and Senate. But they all took credit for it at home after it passed! Ironically, on Jan. 28 of this year, just before Biden’s arrival in the city to announce the benefits of the law, a local Pittsburgh bridge collapsed, fortunately without serious injuries. The country is falling apart literally and the infrastructure bill will go a long way to rebuilding it.

Infrastructure spending will go toward areas that Mr. Biden prioritized in negotiations: to improve access to broadband-internet and to replace hazardous lead drinking pipes. Some of it will help clear backlogs at the nation’s ports, which are contributing to bottlenecks and price increases as hazardous lead drinking pipes. Some of it will help clear backlogs at the nation’s ports, which are contributing to shipping delays and price increases as many United Federation of Teachers members have experienced. The United Federation of Teachers is calling for $2,000 in additional funds to cover the cost of broadband-internet and to replace hazardous lead drinking pipes.

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of which are imported. The bill provides tens of billions for rebuilding roads and bridges, upgrading freight and passenger rail systems and cleaning up environmental pollution, all of which could help boost the productivity of the American economy. Mr. Biden appointed Mitch Landrieu, the former mayor of New Orleans, to oversee implementation of the infrastructure bill.

Mr. Biden was hoping for bipartisan support for his Build Back Better legislation. It sailed through the House with full Democratic support. The legislation has been stymied in the Senate by both Republican recalcitrance, the filibuster, and some Democratic stubbornness, namely Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, who are withholding support for parts of the bill and refusing to eliminate the filibuster. The intention now is to break up the legislation into smaller pieces and pass those that have support.

Other legislation that has failed to win bipartisan support includes several voting rights bills: the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 (H.R. 4), legislation that would restore and strengthen parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Both failed to garner the 60 votes required for passage. Democrats Manchin and Sinema, again, publicly refused to dispose of the filibuster for passage.

Probably the most fascinating of Congressional activities these days is the House committee investigating the U.S. Capitol insurrection and the attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Some of the stories coming out of the committee can only be construed by a reasonable person as depicting treasonous behavior. Former President Donald Trump daily continues to lie about alleged election fraud, despite even Republican-sponsored reviews of balloting and recounts in various states that found no evidence to support his claims. Mr. Trump has publicly stated that, if re-elected, he will pardon the Jan. 6 Capitol rioters. Worse still, in recent weeks, we’re receiving more news reports about attempts by local and federal officials to subvert the constitutional process for counting and accepting electoral votes from the states. Former Vice President Mike Pence, when he was chair of the Senate, admirably observed constitutional principles. The facts are tantamount to listening to plans for a coup. The doublespeak, the fudging of facts, the prevarications and contradictions of those who are reluctant to testify, for we educators, their words ring familiar. They are like a bunch of kids trying to excuse themselves for not doing their homework. Let me tell you: I knew kids who could lie better!