

New York Times News Quiz – Oct.6, 2023

- 1) Representative Kevin McCarthy was removed this week from the House speakership. This is the first time a House speaker has been voted out of the position / ousted. Democrats joined eight Republican hard-liners in a 216-to-210 vote to strip McCarthy of the speakership. Two other motions to vacate have been filed in U.S. history: in 1910 with Joe Cannon and in 2015 with John Boehner. The ouster came after Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz acted Monday night to force a vote on a motion to vacate the office of the speaker, following through on a threat he made last week to take the gavel from the California Republican while the threat of a shutdown loomed. While other speakers throughout history have stepped down after losing the support of their party, McCarthy is the first to be ousted through a vote of the full House in the middle of a congressional term. While McCarthy enjoyed support from most Republicans in his slim majority, eight Republican detractors — many of the same hard-right holdouts who tried to stop him from becoming speaker in January — essentially forced him out. But in many ways, McCarthy's ouster was set in motion when, in deal-making with hard-right holdouts at the start of the year, he agreed to a series of demands — including a rules change that allowed any single lawmaker to file the motion to vacate. Many of the complaints against the speaker revolved around his truthfulness and his ability to keep the promises he has made. Gaetz led his side of the floor debate, criticizing the debt deal McCarthy made with President Joe Biden and the vote to prevent a government shutdown, which conservatives opposed as they demanded steeper spending cuts.
- 2) With McCarthy gone, Patrick McHenry has become the interim speaker. McCarthy named McHenry, a North Carolina Republican, as his interim speaker on a private succession list he submitted.
- 3) The fraud trial of Sam Bankman-Fried, the founder of FTX, began this week. According to prosecutors, \$8 billion of customer money went missing from his

cryptocurrency exchange. When FTX and its sister hedge fund, Alameda Research, imploded, customers were unable to withdraw more than \$8 billion in deposits, prosecutors said. Bankman-Fried faces seven criminal counts. If convicted, he could receive what would amount to a life sentence.

- 4) Donald Trump went on trial this week in Manhattan related to a lawsuit brought last year by New York's attorney general accusing him of fraudulently inflating the value of his assets to gain favorable treatment from banks and insurance companies.
- 5) The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine went to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman, whose work involved mRNA techniques used in Covid vaccines. Karikó and Weissman identified a chemical tweak to messenger RNA, or mRNA, that enabled potent Covid vaccines to be made in less than a year, averting tens of millions of deaths.
- 6) More than 75,000 employees of Kaiser Permanente went on strike this week. Workers said the lack of adequate staffing at Kaiser facilities created unsafe conditions for patients. Doctors and many nurses were not involved in the strike, but Kaiser officials warned that some nonurgent procedures might be postponed.
- 7) After people reported seeing bedbugs in Parisian restaurants and trains, the French health minister said there was "no reason for widespread panic." People in Paris are reporting a citywide infestation of bedbugs. At Paris Fashion Week shows, attendees have been trading tips on how to avoid catching them, like storing luggage in the bathtub.
- 8) Senator Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, died last week at 90. To replace her, she appointed Laphonza Butler, president of Emily's List. Butler, 44, was sworn in on Tuesday, becoming California's first openly L.G.B.T.Q. senator.
- 9) At least 21 people were killed in Venice on Tuesday when a bus crashed. The bus, filled with tourists, broke through an overpass guardrail, crashed near train tracks and exploded in Mestre, the mainland section of Venice. At least 15 more people were injured.

10) Kenya will lead a United Nations-approved mission to tackle escalating gang violence in Haiti. The U.N. Security Council authorized the country's plan, which includes the deployment of 1,000 Kenyan police officers.