## It's not over until the fat lawyer sues

Permit me a few unambiguous and truthful statements as we navigate our way through Phase II of the 'Great Presidential Election of 2020.' America is a litigious society. Trump is a fighter. Americans are fair people. Powerful people will do whatever they can to hang on to power. Power-seeking people will do everything THEY can to obtain it. The American election system is procedurally not up to par. Republicans are very different from Democrats and...it's not over until the fat lawyer sues.

A couple of my European friends have expressed astonishment that we would find ourselves embroiled in a lawyerly brouhaha instead of just accepting the results of an election to choose the 'leader of the free world' as our President is called. I told them that while it may look strange on the surface to call our election system's workings into question AT THE TIME of an election instead of months or years BEFORE one, it is probably the American way as we tend to react to the criticality of situations when they happen instead of focusing on them before they occur.

Then I was asked why, with all the negative voting results that keep coming in for Trump that he just doesn't throw in the towel and call it day AND concede, gracefully. I had to stifle a grin at that question. I replied, "My friends, you must be thinking of some other Donald Trump than the one currently living in the White House. With everything we know about this man and his willingness to fight to the very end, could you really conceive of him standing before the American people - his people - hundreds of thousands of which who stood in long lines to see him at rallies, thousands more who bought the MAGA hats and the Trump flags not to mention the 70 million who drove or walked to the polls and voted for him, that he would meekly give up the reins of power so easily?"

"No," I said. "If you thought that then you don't know the man. You didn't watch him defend himself from a hostile press and a hostile, bloodthirsty Congress for four long years. You weren't there when thousands chanted, "We love you," and he said "I love you" back to them. In all my years of watching politicians engage with people have I ever seen people express their open *love* for one. But his people did. You didn't follow his business career over nearly half a century as he made and lost money, had to declare business bankruptcy three times, battled with his own demons that affected his personal life. AND you haven't been watching his devotion to 'getting the job done' for Americans these last four years."

My friends had to agree. They hadn't been watching because their media didn't show them the normal workings of this man's presidency. They only saw the pitched battles, the confrontations with his opponents, the impeachment hearings and all the political theatre and window-dressing that made up the evening news broadcasts. I told them they weren't alone. OUR media had decided long ago they hated Trump and everything he stood for and took a blood oath to see him knocked off his perch...and that it continues to this very day. They asked me if this was normal and doesn't the press have an adversarial relationship with <u>every</u> President. Again, I had to 'stifle myself' as Archie Bunker used to say to his wife, Edith.

I reminded them of the eight-year long courtship the press had with Barack Husein Obama and that no matter what THAT President did he could be forgiven because he was their man; was cool and half-Black; and young and offered them hope and change on a silver platter no matter it was baseless hope and empty change. They forgave him his lies about healthcare, vanishing lines in the Mid-East sand and a look-the-other-way approach to healing political and racial divisions in America.

THEN came the coup de grace from my friends: "How could you countenance his nasty speech and his name-calling? We don't do that in Europe." I had to respond. My dear dear friends. I lived in Europe for 16 years and worked in a dozen European countries. I was frequently in the company of politicians and political party officials. We ate and drank together, and we talked.

During the appetizers and before a couple glasses of wine they were very careful with their criticism of the opposition, but as the evening wore on and after the first couple of bottles of European wine were downed the God of Bacchus gave them permission to speak, freely. And they did, and not in flattering terms of their arch rivals. The difference between them and us, or rather Trump, is that he doesn't drink nor is he afraid of being 'exposed' for the opinionated and passionate character he is. That he expresses those opinions too much is another question. I'm reminded of a piece of wisdom about our First Amendment - that it guarantees our right to express our opinion, but our good sense determines WHEN we should express it. Each of us has a trip wire that engages that action, and Trump's is, admittedly, different from many other politicians'.

"And that's the rub," I said. "Trump is NOT a politician, and that's why we elected him! He said it again in the last Presidential debate with former VP Joe Biden directly TO Joe Biden. *YOU are the reason I ran for this job*. We, the conservatives who voted for him, were willing to overlook his silly names for people and his bombastic style. We looked beyond it to the inner workings of a complex man, an alpha male whose world experience convinced him that if you let your opponents gain too much ground they will eventually surround you or crush you...which is why he responds to every challenge to his authority with equal and opposing forcefulness. I can't say that this approach is good for everybody; I can only say that it seems to work for him."

With that there was a bit of a pause in our conversation. I guessed that my friends were taking it all in, so I filled that pause with my theory as to how the next few weeks would unfold. Here it is...

The Trump lawyers will become the deadly tip of the spear and follow up on election irregularities by filing suits against cities and states. Some of their suits for stays of counting or ballot segregation will be rejected and will be pushed up the line to the Supreme Court. Other requests for recounts will be approved without opposition unless the thresholds for margins (1%) are not met. In that case, the lawyers will attach their voting irregularity claims to a request for recount to force the issue. Meanwhile, Trump will continue to be optimistic and combine that optimism with bravado and continue being presidential and start reviewing ways to protect the Executive Orders he has written from being overturned by a possible Biden Administration.

He will continue to communicate with his base of 70 million conservative followers in anticipation of his exit from the Presidency, and he will strengthen his relationship with Red state governors and with members of the Senate. His PR machine will begin to lay the groundwork for the Trump legacy by lionizing him and promoting the Trumpian model of 'action over words' and begin to contrast it with the clumsiness and empty rhetoric of Joe Biden. Next, his surrogates will escalate the drumbeat about the Hunter Biden/Joe Biden 'Bidengate' pay-for-access scandal. Private investigative work will continue in parallel with the DOJ investigation in the hopes of finding another 'smoking gun' akin to Tony Bobulinski. Another group will focus on the 'President-inwaiting', Kamala Harris, in an attempt to bring her real lust for power and far Left-wing agenda into sharper focus.

By tainting the Biden/Harris alliance with indisputable facts about their veracity and by coupling that with a larger voting scandal it is hoped that the country will have 'buyer's remorse' and put the incoming Administration on the defensive. This would go a long way to relieving some of the huge disappointment millions of Trump supporters are experiencing and will experience later when Trump makes his concession speech which will not come until sometime in December, probably just before Christmas.

Meanwhile, the Biden team will be forced to accept a disputed election, though at some point I am sure they will declare victory. Joe and Kami will appeal for calm and for 'counting every vote' no matter that thousands of illegal votes will surface and compete with their story of 'healing America' at all costs. That message, by the way, will not resonate as America isn't in the mood for healing.

Americans are still angry about losing their jobs, being forced into lockdowns, keeping their children out of school, and they're worried about their futures under a Draconian Progressive regime that promises political chaos as they attempt to re-engineer the country. No, healing is not on our minds. Many are worried about their safety, especially if they live in urban areas. Many more are also sick and tired of the phony 'systemic racial discrimination' accusations, the 'cancel culture' crusade, the violent protests and the bloodlust exhibited by Congressional Representatives like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes' 'Trump Accountability' witch hunt for Trump supporters.

Republicans and Democrats are at war, and it is a war that is bound to rack up more destruction along with a loss of trust in America's basic institutions. Make no mistake. Trump will be accused of sowing discord, of poisoning the well of comity, *interfering* with an election instead of *improving* procedures for future ones and for preventing an orderly transfer of power. The media, both mainstream and social, will be on the side of the Democrats and will use every single minute of air time to press their case. To them, Trump is a cancer that must be excised not only from America's political system, but prevented from re-appearing as a formidable political force, post January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Trump should actually thank Barack Obama for breaking the mold for ex-Presidents' involvement after their time in office has passed. Now he can feel free, post presidency, to balance the political scales by heading up his movement to 'Save America's Greatness Again' (SAGA) from the grip of Biden/Harris radical Progressivism. In fact, losing a second term may ultimately be the best thing that could have happened to Donald Trump and to Conservatives. Now that the Democrat 'dogs' have caught car they've been chasing, it will be interesting to see how and where they will 'drive' it. My money's on...into a ditch.

Stephan Helgesen is a retired career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in 30 countries for 25 years during the Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton, and G.W. Bush Administrations. He is the author of ten books, four of which are on American politics and has written over 1,000 articles on politics, economics and social trends. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com