Joe's true colors

After watching Joe Biden two-step through time for nearly five decades I can truly say that nothing he does surprises me. Even his latest Executive Orders signed on his first day in office are completely in character for him. The reasons are simple. Joe wants to be liked...and respected...by nearly everybody and he is willing to go to great lengths to make it happen...even if it that means doing a 180 on his own beliefs. This burning desire has been evident through his entire career as he has flipped and flopped like a flounder on a boat deck from Senate to VP to President.

At times, Joe will use his crooked smarmy grin and back-patting to ingratiate himself with his audience. At others, he will use his phony *down-hominess* and "folks" expressions to convince the hard-to-convince that he's genuine. Then, there are those instances when he senses a need for a change-up pitch, so he'll use the *tough Joe* approach as he did on the 2020 campaign trail with factory workers and construction types that pressed him a mite too hard. Joe doesn't like to be pushed because he's afraid that he won't be able to find a quick answer so he goes into full stiff backbone mode and attempts to bully his way through. And because he has the gravitas of his position (former Senator or VP) he has gotten away with it. Joe's not stupid.

He is, however, a bit dense and naive which is strange considering his age. He also has a tendency to live in the past AND in a self-induced romanticized past where he is the hero. He is Walter Mitty, Ragged Dick (one of Horatio Alger's rags-to-riches characters) and Indiana Jones all rolled into one. But he has hoisted himself on his own petard and has become a victim of his own delusions of greatness (though he has, ironically, captured the highest elected office in the land).

One more thing about that... Joe believes that he did all this 'his way' and that his rise to the top was due to his own skills and likeability. He has come to believe his own autobiography and his own PR and is sure he got where he is by being a good guy, a fair guy, a compassionate guy and a smart guy. I believe that he actually sees himself as the personification of the American Dream and is perfectly willing to let the media adopt that narrative and run with it. *Keep watching for the unfolding docudrama of the Joe Biden story.* Because he is self-mesmerized, weak and seeks approval, he is vulnerable to those whose respect he craves AND is willing to compromise his beliefs to secure that approval. That may explain why the Democrats wanted him at the top of the ticket so that they could manipulate him through the really tough cookie that occupies the VP spot, Kamala Harris.

On Joe's first day in office he proceeded to sign Executive Orders that he had, presumably, never read through. These EOs weren't accompanied by the fine print that would have spelled out the consequences. Take the EO that cancelled the Keystone Pipeline permit. That one killed over 10,000 high-paying jobs. Re-joining the Paris Climate Agreement and the WHO telegraphed that America was willing to re-accept its 'big sap' identity and would roll over to the 'science first-science-only' crowd that never considers the real world consequences of their actions.

Soon Joe will become the 'Etymologist/Censor-in-chief' as he revises our official language - banning certain words and phrases from our regulations and laws (both retroactively and going forward with every new government paper, memo or pronouncement). This goes for descriptors like "illegal immigrants" which will probably be changed to *socially-disadvantaged innocent border-crossers* and adopting the newspeak of the 'Lady of the House' Nancy Pelosi's changes to words like mother, father, sister, brother, etc. In fact, the White House website is already allowing people to choose their own new personal pronouns. Arthur Blair, better known as George Orwell, must be catapulting himself up from his grave in the picturesque countryside of Sutton Courtenay, England and shouting, "I warned you, didn't I?"

There are many more of these social engineering change EOs queued up, waiting in the pipeline. And because Joe wants everybody in the LGBTQXYZ communities to love him and regard him as their own personal Harvey Milk or Freddy Mercury, he will appease them by ordering the rest of us to condone and embrace their alternative lifestyle choices. Why? Because WE must repent for OUR original sins of homophobia, misogynistic tendencies, White Supremacism, White Nationalism and for our latest crime of being members of the new American domestic terrorist movement known as MAGAns.

I know this sounds bizarre, but we are living on a movie set intersection of Fellini's "Satyricon" and Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451." Basically, we're witnessing the coming to life of a famous Henry Ford quote, "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't – you're right," and it's being brought to us by our whacked-out, crazed Left-wing, Progressive fellow citizens who happened to win power through a clever combination of voter hate/fear mongering of Donald Trump, big donor-coddling and maybe, just maybe, through election manipulation. (Stay tuned for more on that as time goes by IF a 2020 election commission is ever formed to investigate the alleged irregularities.)

So where does that leave us going forward? It leaves us in a whole world of hurt; that's where it leaves us. Joe and company are counting on a full-blown, all-out assault on Trump supporters and the Republican Party. Sensing that the Party's wounded, he's counting on his unity pitch of *come home to America* to wrest the anger from the troubled souls of the infidels (Conservatives). He's like an old timey Southern preacher who lays on hands to send the Devil (Trumpism), packing. "Folks, say hallelujah, then click your heels three times and repeat after me, I renounce the evils of Republicanism. I beseech thee Almighty Government Father to free me from my misguided thoughts and give me the strength to see the error of my ways. Help me find the path to unity with your help. In the name of the Joe, the Kamala and the Nancy, A-men and A-woman (and everything in-between)."

So, my Conservative, Libertarian and Independent friends, what all this comes down to is what it always comes down to...we have a choice to make. Are we going to go along and praise Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat or are we going to be brave enough to tell him he actually has no clothes?

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 1,100 articles on politics, economics and social trends. He operates a political news story aggregator website, www.projectpushback.com. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com