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TODAY'S "QUICK HIT": ELIMINATE THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE: THERE'S A MOVEMENT AFOOT – BUT GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT!

By Stephen L. Bakke  November 30, 2016



Here's what provoked me:

The Minneapolis Star&Tribune gave a lot of space to a "counterpoint" offering which took serious exception to an excellent earlier report in the paper which shed a favorable light on the controversial Electoral College. I believe the latter opinion piece left much to be desired on the accuracy scale. I am convinced the "counterpoint" author was sincere, but definitely uninformed.

Here's my response:

Eliminate the Electoral College: There's a Movement Afoot – but Get the Facts Straight!

Democrats are bemoaning the Electoral College after years of support. They and others even started the idea of a legendary "Blue Wall." That represented several eastern and northeastern states which held the right combination of Democrat voters and numbers of electoral votes to create a usually impenetrable wall of electoral votes. All was well! But the sun came up on November 9th and all was not well! Now they wanted to do something about this archaic system.

Mark Bohnhorst sees hope on the horizon to save us from this scourge called "Electoral College" ("Electoral College deserves no one's vote of support; it rigs our system" – Counterpoint - 11/27). He reminds us of a movement afoot which he doesn't identify (it's the "National Popular Vote Compact"). He sees great hope as many states are signing on to this agreement which requires each state to cast its electoral votes for the winner of the national popular vote. Quite a few states have bought into this idea.

There's inadequate space here to argue advantages of the Electoral College, and there are some. I can, however, throw cold water on the euphoria Bohnhorst is experiencing. On the surface, it seems rather easy for the states to accomplish this "interstate pact," except that Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 of our Constitution (the Compact Clause) states: "*No state shall, without the consent of Congress.....enter into any agreement or compact with another state or with a foreign power.....*"

Calm down Mr. Bohnhorst, your idea is unconstitutional!