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Transition hypocrisy

By Steve Bakke  January 4, 2021



Before the presidential election had vote totals for many states, before the states' results were certified, and even before the Electoral College cast their votes, there was a coronation of sorts. There he was, Joe Biden at the podium in front of an official looking seal for the "Office of the President Elect." There's nothing illegal with that, but with the way the last few years and months are going, Biden's handlers should have known they would get "trolled" back by Donald Trump who loves getting into the heads of his opposition.

We can be sure that Trump's transition process won't be granted a status of being highly righteous. We can also be sure that nothing Trump could do to smooth out the transition would have resulted in even a hint of approval coming from the Biden camp. And there's much more to the story that deserves attention.

Biden's complaints tend to revolve around issues with the vaccine rollout and claims of inadequate national security and Pentagon briefings. Of course, these are met with statistics and descriptions of how Biden's requests for information have been adequately met. Also, according to the defense department, regularly scheduled meetings will begin in January. Complaints range from petty to some with more importance charges. Most charges won't go anywhere, even in today's mainstream media environment. And we probably won't ever know the whole truth about them.

Now let's think back about the Obama-to-Trump transition. How should it be evaluated? That's four years ago. Memories fade. And Trump fatigue has overtaken too many Americans – some of it deserved for sure. But the question is still a fair one.

Even before election day in 2016, and continuing throughout that year, Trump and his campaign were under investigation by the FBI because regarding the fraudulent Steele Dossier, paid for by the Hillary Clinton campaign. That was the shameful investigation into a nonexistent Trump/Russia election conspiracy, codename "Crossfire Hurricane."

Two weeks before Trump's inauguration in January 2017, FBI Director memorialized discussions he had with Trump hoping to learn something, or trip him up, in order to advance the Crossfire Hurricane investigation, already several months old, and apparently going nowhere. And both Biden and Obama have been documented as participants in discussions about investigating president elect

Trump. Based upon leaks and speculation about the investigation, on Trump's 2017 inauguration day there was already talk among democrats and in the mainstream media, of starting impeachment hearings as soon as possible. Dozens of democrat members of Congress announced in advance they would be boycotting Trump's inauguration. Those events all occurred during the "transition period." How do they rank on the transition conduct "righteousness scale"?

Soon after taking office, Trump was subjected to a Special Counsel investigation regarding the Trump/Russia election conspiracy theory. It lasted from 2017 to 2019 and resulted in the Mueller Report. No charges were brought or recommended. This democrat version of "collegiality and cooperation" continued into 2020 with impeachment hearings, charges, and the Senate impeachment trial. There was no basis for impeachment – almost embarrassingly so. Following Trump's 2020 State of the Union address House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tore up her copy of the speech on national TV. The following day, February 5, 2020, the Senate voted to acquit the President.

This was all about politics. Trump was impeached for making a rather routine call to the Ukrainian president while Joe Biden is the one who offered Ukraine a quid pro quo when he was Vice President. But if you drag someone through the mud long enough, or repeatedly tell people a false but plausible story, they eventually start believing it.

I'm sure those election year gymnastics had an effect. Given the treatment of Trump over his four-year term, one shouldn't be surprised that he would struggle mightily against changing his stripes and jumping through hoops to cooperate with the democrats. And I strongly assert once again that nothing Trump could have done relative to the transition that would have resulted in even a hint of approval coming from the Biden camp.

Joe Biden isn't, and won't be, getting the shoddy treatment Trump received from the democrats before, during, and after the 2016-2017 presidential transition.