

## **Biden the great and powerful wizard**

There's a seminal moment in the 1939 blockbuster film, the Wizard of Oz. It happens when Dorothy's dog, Toto, pulls back the curtain that's hiding the real 'Wizard' (a mortal flesh and blood man) from view. It's one of the more famous movie metaphors and it's been used to describe the deception of the many by the few ever since. Misdirection or the tactic of diverting someone's attention to perform an illusion is as old as magic itself and has been practiced around the world for centuries. Politicians have found it particularly useful in plying their trade and it's now become one of the essential elements in the new Joseph Robinette Biden Administration.

The most current instance is playing out before our very eyes at our overrun southern border, and like CIS investigators trying to protect their crime scenes from onlookers, the Biden band is mouthing the chant, "Don't look here. There's nothing to see." We, the people, however, know better. We can see with our own eyes that Joe and his spokesman, the stone-faced Obama re-tread and now DHS Chief, Alejandro Mayorkas' pronouncements just don't track with the reality of a total border meltdown. As recent as today on the morning Sunday shows, Mayorkas repeated the 'pay no attention to what's behind the curtain' remarks about his leader's failed policy when asked serious questions about the porosity of the border and why no press have been allowed to film the conditions in the children's holding facilities.

Spinning faster than a Sufi whirling dervish on amphetamines, Mayorkas parroted the party line and side-stepped anything that remotely resembled an honest answer. Even though we've come to expect this from any Bidenite and is no surprise to us, it does make us long for someone, anyone, with the courage to speak the truth about issues of importance. It was a week for misdirection. We saw it play out in a rare exchange between two doctors in a Senate hearing: Dr. (and Senator from Kentucky) Rand Paul and Dr. (and top gun of the Biden Covid-19 Presidential Advisory Team and Chief of the NIAID), Anthony Fauci. To use the Wizard of Oz metaphor and give each doctor a role, Dr. Paul was Toto and all of the other four principals (Dorothy, the Tin Man, The Cowardly Lion and the Scarecrow) and Fauci was, of course, the 'Wizard.' Paul challenged Fauci on his penchant for wearing two-masks even after being vaccinated, calling it "theatre."

This was clearly an unexpected comment and got underneath Fauci's mask right down to his epidermis. How could anyone dare challenge the great and powerful Oz of the NIAID? Momentarily flustered, Fauci came back with some medical babble about variants of the virus only to have it challenged (again) by Senator Paul who pursued him like a heat-seeking missile. It ended on a TKO for Paul, but it was clear that 'mask theatre' was the sound bite of the day and Fauci's credibility was wounded. THIS is precisely what needs to happen with everything the Biden Administration throws at the media *wall*. It needs to be repeatedly and routinely questioned by those with facts and solid arguments on their side.

Going back to the border for a moment, we need to stop taking the misdirection bait about the state of current events and actions being taken and re-start the whole border conversation by asking some basic questions. Here's a few to ponder for the media and concerned Congressmen and Senators to consider asking...

Question 1. "Why do we feel it's necessary for the USA to accept illegal immigrants, citizens from failed state Central American countries that refuse to deal with their own security and economic problems?" Here are some population statistics for context: Honduras around 10 mill., El Salvador around 6.5 mill., Guatemala around 17.5 mill., Mexico around 127.5 mill. We do not know just how many illegal aliens from these countries currently reside in the U.S., but it's estimated that one country (El Salvador) has about 1/3 of its population living here.

Question 2. "Why are we willing to allow more gang members from MS13 slip through our border when we already have a massive gang problem in American cities and areas like Suffolk County (NY), Montgomery County (MD) and in Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington, DC?"

(For an eye-opening report, check out "MS13 in the Americas" by the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies.)

Question 3. "Why have we departed from the traditional definition of the reasons for granting asylum to immigrants?" Here's the justification for granting asylum: Asylum is a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or arriving at the border who meet the international law definition of a "refugee." The United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol define a refugee as a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future "on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." Congress incorporated this definition into U.S. immigration law in the Refugee Act of 1980.

Question 4. "If border security is important to us why don't we stop fooling around and militarize it with a special force once and for all and be done with it?" Though our Customs and Border Protection does its best to stem the flow of illegal immigration, it can't do enough. We need the border wall completed and sufficient personnel and equipment stationed along the 1,954 miles of the U.S./Mexico border.

Question 5. "What is the definition of *enough* yearly legal immigration?" (The U.S. takes in or adjusts a little over 1 million legal immigrants each year.)

Question 6. "Why don't we bill the countries of origin for our costs for detaining and housing of illegal immigrants when they are apprehended?" According to statistics from ICE' 2018 budget, it costs \$133.99/day for one adult detention bed. In the 2018 Federal Budget it was estimated that the Federal Government would spend upwards of \$3 bill./year on DHS custody operations and around \$8 mill./day on immigrant detention. A report in 2017 by the Customs and Immigration Service estimated that the lifetime cost for an illegal immigrant to the U.S. taxpayer was between \$120K and \$130K.

Question 7. "Why not institute a lifetime ban from obtaining U.S. citizenship for any illegal immigrant entering the U.S." After all, isn't U.S. citizenship worth observing the laws of our country?

Question 8. "If the Biden (Democrat) Administration is determined to allow so many illegal immigrants into our country, shouldn't they all be bussed to Delaware and other Democrat-run states?"

Those are but a few of the questions I would ask of our current President and his Praetorian Guard of spinmasters. I'm sure you have a few of your own. Why not send them to him and copy your Congressional Representative and Senators. It's time we stopped the three-card Monte game of political misdirection now being practiced in D.C.

*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](http://www.projectpushback.com). He can be reached at: [stephan@stephanhelgesen.com](mailto:stephan@stephanhelgesen.com)*