

Tough choices ahead for Conservatives

The coming year will bring with it a tough choice for Conservatives and Trump supporters. How will they get through the next four years? And which weapons of dissent will they use to stave off a massive push *backwards* to the Obama years when the Left is busy transforming America into a collectivist utopia?

Many of the 74 million Americans that voted for Donald Trump were acutely aware of what choices would be left to them if they allowed a 'swamp creature' like Joe Biden to become President (which is precisely why they cast their ballot for another Trump term). For whatever reason - and many of us believe it is because of pervasive election fraud - the Left prevailed and the 78-year old career politician will assume the reins of power on January 20, 2021. We must not kid ourselves. Biden will not be his own man - he never has been. Instead, his Pinocchioan strings will be pulled by a cadre of other professional politicians, foremost of which is his acerbic, ambitious Vice-President who regards him as nothing more than place-holder-in-chief. Be assured, she is not the type to wait patiently in the West Wing while other special interests push their agendas over hers. This includes lobbyists, the tech oligarchs from Facebook, Twitter and Google along with charter members of the deep state executive branch.

No sir, Kami the Great will have her hand on every lever of power she can to insure that Joe's transition to retirement will come prematurely. THAT is her 'Plan B(iden)'. This plan is also shared by most of the Democratic Party loyalists and über Left-wingers who regard Biden as simply their surrogate foot in the door of ultimate DC hegemonic power - power that will allow them to radically transform America. Does that sound conspiratorial or off-the-wall to you? It shouldn't, not when you look back at the Dems' practice of throwing their own party members under the bus (like Bernie Sanders in 2016 and again in 2020). The underlying fact is that the Democrats have been in an ideological food fight for years and when they ran out of food they settled on Joe Biden as a short-term compromise.

Joe is but an innocuous bookmark in their playbook of power while they ready themselves for the great reset. He exists, like he always has, to simply take up space while the real contests for control occur behind his back. Joe's that elaborately carved figurehead adorning the bow of a ship that makes its way through the waves. The sight looks formidable, but it is really just window dressing. Am I being too hard on old Joe? I don't think so. He's earned the criticism and his stripes over a 47-year, fair-to-middling government career doing what elite DC politicians do...nothing of real consequence but still collecting their paychecks. AND if you believe the unraveling Hunter Biden story, he's padded his checkbook along the way as well. Had Joe been in the world of commerce, competing with the likes of Donald Trump, he would have been forcibly retired from middle management long ago. Government service gave him a chance to be the one-eyed man in the land of the blind, and he took it...all the way to the White House.

In Republican watering holes around the country, people are gathering to discuss which tactics they will employ to fight off attempts to fundamentally change America by the *barbarian hoards* of entrenched special interests, hack politicians, the media industrial complex, millionaire and billionaire donors and deep state operatives, all of whom are salivating at the prospect of the Biden gravy train pulling into their stations and punching their tickets.

There are only two real choices for Conservatives; fight back or buckle under. Both have real and lasting consequences. The year 2021 is very different from 2017. Conservatives have found their voice and shed the skin of the old Republicanism thanks to a new leader who has helped them reconstitute themselves into a true movement. Donald Trump has shown Conservatives that they matter, that they needn't cower in the shadows of society. He has reshaped the party into a self-reliant worker's party that is unafraid to stand up to union bosses and to Democrats who purport to be on their side. He has emboldened the silent majority of American values voters to come out of the closet and to pass on their enthusiasm, enlarging the Republican Party's base along the way.

Finally, he has led by example and kept his promises, something millions of Americans hadn't expected from a politician in their lifetimes. January 20th will not be Donald Trump's last day on America's stage. As an ex-President, he will enjoy a new and different kind of power, one that is unencumbered by the limits of public office. As titular head of the Republican Party he will be in a unique position to turn the tables on the Biden Administration and use his private sector bully pulpit to call out the Democrats' hypocrisy at every turn. Ironically, he can thank his predecessor, Barack Obama, for breaking the mold for ex-Presidents' behavior and paving the way for a new kind of political performance art. That brings us back to all the rest of us Conservatives. What are we to do? As I said, there are two principal ways of dealing with political brinkmanship: retreat through avoidance and denial or adopt targeted activism. Right now we're smarting at the sight and sound of Joe Biden. His repetitive words of unity and *coming together* phraseology grate on us because we know they're hollow and unrealistic not to mention disingenuous. They are designed to turn our opposition and anger into passivity. Sure, we can avoid listening to or watching him and tune out his Praetorian Guard of sycophants, and while that may lower our blood pressure a bit, we will only be harming ourselves because we will miss the signals he'll be sending about programs and policies that would be destructive for our country.

That leaves targeted activism and unrelenting opposition as the only option open to us. THIS is my choice lest we be doomed to wander aimlessly in the political desert like nomads. The Left specializes in multi-front warfare, and with an army that is well-versed in advancing incrementally, we cannot afford to minimize the importance of battlefield spotting of their movements. Each step must be noted. Each new executive appointment must be challenged. Investigations of government corruption and influence-peddling must be pursued. False media reports must be called out and any infringement of the people's rights of privacy, free speech and assembly must be challenged. The media's power must not be allowed to turn into a stranglehold on conservative expression.

We must aggressively overturn any and all attempts to expand gubernatorial power and learn the lessons from the Coronavirus lockdown experience. We must make the case strongly for the universal application of law and order in our cities and towns and resist all efforts to de-criminalize current felony crimes. We must use the full weight of the Senate (should we retain control of it after the Georgia elections in January) to fully vet all Schedule C appointments -- *Schedule C positions are excepted from the competitive service because of their confidential or policy-determining character. Most such positions are at grade 15 of the General Schedule or lower. Schedule C positions above the GS-15 level are either in the Senior Level (SL) personnel system or are specifically authorized in law. Currently, there are about 7,000 such federal civil service and leadership positions not subject to competition. This goes for ambassadorial nominations and cabinet positions, too.*

To keep the pressure on the administration will require an all-out effort by hundreds of thousands of Conservatives at the federal, state and local levels. While the individual state Republican Party chairs and officers can be instrumental in this effort; they cannot go it alone. Citizen groups must be formed along special interest (issue) lines as well as geographical ones to monitor city council meetings, state legislature hearings and keep the local media in check. The mantra must be: "Everyone can do something." On January 20th of 2017, the Democrats were ready with their plan to oppose Donald J. Trump and they were not shy about implementing it. During the ensuing four years we have seen that plan evolve and metastasize. While it failed to deter Donald Trump from fulfilling many of his campaign promises, it did, ultimately, result in elevating a cognitively-challenged low-energy career politician to America's top job. The next four years will seem like an eternity to 74 million of us, of that I am sure, and we will need to support one another at every turn. If we stay true to our beliefs and keep faith in ourselves and in our country's future, we will persevere. Politics is, after all, an exercise in faith and hard work.

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