

If they can do it to him they can do it to you

There have always been people who think they know better than you, and there have always been people with power that think they know better than you, but there haven't been so many people before with so much power that have come together to take away your rights as now.

This week I wrote an article about how the 'purge' of our liberties has begun and that it started at the very top of the pyramid, with our President, Donald Trump. But before we get into what I believe is the most serious attack on our free speech in my memory, let's look at the facts. For the last four years, the mainstream media (TV and newspapers) has done their best to destroy Donald Trump. During the same period, the social media barons (Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and Jack Dorsey of Twitter) have lain in wait for the exact right time to suspend President Trump's accounts, full well knowing that this would cut him off at the knees and effectively pull the plug on his ability to communicate with the millions of Americans who are (or were) recipients of his messages.

Leaders in the House of Representatives from the Speaker on down have been on a hate trip to systematically neuter him (they did, after all, impeach the man). The 'Deep State' bureaucrats of the FBI and others in other Departments and agencies were also active in pushing back at Trump through a web of internal governmental collusion. But rather than censor Trump's speech, the Deep State bureaucrats chose to work in secret and only surfaced, occasionally, to leak information to their co-conspirators, the media and certain members of House Committees like Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell.

To Trump's credit, he toughed it out and fought back. He fired people when he discovered their ineptitude or their disloyalty and was lambasted for it. He dared to poke the media bear time and time again and was reviled and attacked for it. But, according to the cabal of media, social media, Deep State and elected officials, he committed an unforgiveable crime. And the crime was? He availed himself of his First Amendment rights. He spoke up, sometimes harshly and sometimes without thinking of the consequences, but he spoke up. And for that and because he dared confront the hypocrisy of the cabal, he had to pay the price of losing his voice. So, instead of opposing him with op eds, they up-ended his accounts on their platforms and as of today he is banned on both Facebook and Twitter.

To those of us without social media accounts on these two platforms (of which I am proudly one) and who have watched these two companies in particular move towards the 'dark side' where only *approved speech* resides, we knew it was coming. We saw their pathetic attempts to stave off 'Section 230' revisions of the Communications Code by putting in place small insignificant changes to their fact-checking operations and modifications of their 'rules of engagement' when it came to suspending accounts or taking down posts that they believe were *unhelpful* or *contrary to the ethics* of their operations.

We knew this was a ruse because they were afraid that their *platforms* were in danger of being labeled as *publishers* which would have opened them up to lawsuits for free speech infringement, etc. And THAT would have been catastrophic, so they 'PR'ed their way forward...UNTIL it was clear that the Democrats would win the White House and a majority in both the House and Senate. All at once the 'all-clear' siren went off and they could step out into the sunlight and reveal themselves for what they truly are - partisan censors ready and willing to use their power to stifle free speech.

Then they were given a great gift, the storming of the Capitol which provided the perfect cover to freely censor or permanently eliminate any 'disagreeable' (read: un-politically correct) speech. This situation mirrored the health emergency imposed by the dangers of the Covid-19 virus which gave Governors the power to limit First amendment protected gatherings and empower them to lockdown their states. In short, it was a 'speech emergency.'

So, the social media companies decided they could lockdown, too, and because they had helped the Democrats come to power with millions of dollars of campaign contributions AND by taking down competing (read: Republican or conservative-based) posts, they clamped down, hard, on anything that would smack of an opposing (to Democrats) viewpoint. The posts were simply deemed "not in keeping with their companies' policies."

Enter the traditional media. Just yesterday, the Cable News Network, CNN, fired its first shot in what can only be termed an all-out war on Fox News for being *enablers or instigators of insurgency or insurrection*. At the same time, House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, who has been a committed enemy of the President ever since he took the oath of office (but actually long before), told the news media that she had contacted the Defense Dept. and wanted more information on the nuclear codes because she was afraid that in the remaining two weeks of Trump's presidency he would start a nuclear war. In almost the same breath she called for the President to resign or be impeached or removed by way of the 25th Amendment. Now who's really unhinged?

All this was done while the President-elect, that paragon of political healers, was making a speech denouncing the President with a litany of falsehoods like his 'collusion with the Russians.' Using language and a demeanor that had absolutely nothing to do with healing, Biden revealed his true message which is, "Once we do away with Trump and all of his supporters we can build back better in total unity of purpose and harmony." It is, in my opinion, no coincidence that all quarters: the incoming administration, the social media, the traditional mainstream media, the Congress and the DNC are speaking with one demonizing voice. They are on a mission to search out Trump supporters and eliminate them. It is a purge of the highest order, taken right from the Soviet playbook with a tinge of 1950s McCarthyism thrown in to give it that unique American character.

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That's the background. It's the next steps that this cabal will take that should worry anybody who supported Trump or is a proponent of conservative thought. The Internet is controlled by the search engines. Google is the primary one (through Chrome). Next, there is Microsoft's 'Edge', followed by the open source, Mozilla Firefox. Google is a powerful force that can make or break businesses and that can hide sources for dissent or disagreement through its search algorithms which have the power to place any posting or website further down the list of 'found items.' Many people will only look at the first page of found items and not go any further, thereby guaranteeing that only 'Google-approved' items are listed, first.

Think what that can do for websites with 'disagreeable' material or other posted articles, even those from highly-credible writers. Write the wrong stuff and you're relegated to either the bottom of the list or eliminated from the list, altogether. THAT's Google's power. And there's more. Google's Play Store has just banned 'Parler' the social media application that competes with Twitter, from its AppStore and Apple is thinking about doing the same. They say that they will re-allow it only when Parler gives them an assurance that they will impose the same free speech restrictions on their members that Twitter imposes on its. Now tell me if that's not collusion or an anti-trust violation and just another reason to justify changing the status of social media and the Internet search engines to *utility* status? That would make them subject to a whole new 'fairness' doctrine, one which would prevent them from using their platforms to expressly limit the free speech of their members.

There is a problem with that, however. By making them public utilities they would be subject to government regulation, and as we all know, our government isn't doing a bang-up job protecting our free speech. Given the sabre-rattling of the Democrats on this issue, it doesn't seem probable that newly-minted 'utilities' would be required to be open if not fair and balanced. But that is an argument for another day.

Now what about you and your social media presence? Should you be worried about censorship of your posts, worried enough to pull out altogether? That's up to you, but as I see it, things are only going to get worse as the Democrats exert more control over us. Why? Because they are looking ahead to 2022 and 2024. While this last election gave them the White House it also lost them a dozen or more Congressional seats, and that worries them because it tells them that their voters split their tickets. They (the voters) wanted Trump out, but were smart enough to know that by giving the Democrats everything (Congressional seats) they would be writing their own obituaries by giving the Dems carte blanche to do whatever they chose. They knew this because they knew the Democrats' playbook which said, "Do whatever we want, whenever we want, to whomever we want, however we want."

The second worry that has made the cabal act in unison is their fear that Donald Trump will rise from the ashes of his current public banishment to become an even greater opposition force to their efforts to destroy the Republican Party and conservative thought once and for all. (This is one of the reasons that Pelosi and her ideologue mafia are trying to get Trump removed by the 25th Amendment or by impeachment as it would prevent him from running again in 2024.)

But back to you. By staying on Facebook and Twitter you continue to give power to censorship and grow the cash reserves of Zuckerberg and Dorsey. Sure, you can pen a posting that criticizes them, but do you really think it will be allowed to see the light of day, but if so, would it do any good? There is another alternative, however. You can write to the advertisers on Facebook and Twitter and tell them you're not going to buy their products or avail yourself of their services because by their advertising they are supporting censorship. That might go a bit further than just rattling your digital sabre on your own Facebook page. At present, there is a push to organize a mass withdrawal from these two platforms and it is spearheaded by an organization called, 'Walkaway.' You can find out more information by logging on to www.walkawaycampaign.com.

My decision to stay away from social media entirely has proved to be the right one for me. But because I wanted to reach out to more like-minded people I chose to set up my own websites where I could control the ebb and flow of information. This might be something for you as an individual or with a group of your friends to consider as well. The cost is minimal, amounting to about \$150/year for both the site (which you can construct yourself with the help of simple templates and no knowledge of fancy software coding) and a domain name for the site. I did it for about a ten sites, four of which I still operate. Check them out for yourself. They were all set up with simple templates from GoDaddy.com. They are: www.projectpushback.com, www.mediawatcher.com, www.stephanhelgesen.com and www.blackbearsmatter.org.

Whatever you choose to do, it had better be done, quickly. The purge will only get more intense and more widespread as the Democrats tighten their iron grip on free speech.

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