



The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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Stay Engaged: the Battle Resumes on Jan. 20

As soon as the election results sank in, sleepy federal bureaucrats woke up and shifted into high gear, furiously finalizing regulations that could be issued before President Obama leaves office. According to *The New York Times*, President Obama “is using every power at his disposal to cement his legacy and establish his priorities as the law of the land,” and the new rules are “intended to set up as many policy and ideological roadblocks as possible before Mr. Trump takes his oath of office on Jan. 20.”

Some of these last-minute regulations can be revoked by President Trump on his first day in office. Others can be overturned by Congress under the Congressional Review Act, a process that requires only 51 Senate votes if the Senate acts within 60 legislative days after the rules were published.

Washington’s permanent governing class is also preparing to fight the new president in every possible way. Ground zero of the opposition is the Center for American Progress (CAP), which employs hundreds of staffers and enjoys a budget of \$50 million.

“Our goal is to be the central hub of the Trump resistance,” CAP’s president recently announced. It has just hired retiring Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s deputy chief of staff, who said, “I hope to bring a relentlessly aggressive attitude” to the organization whose website promises to “push back rapidly and forcefully” against the incoming Trump administration.

Founded in 2003 by John Podesta, who took a leave of absence to run Hillary Clinton’s failed presidential campaign, CAP is now run by a former Hillary aide named Neera Tanden. Since 2011 she has been president of both CAP itself, which claims to be a nonpartisan think tank, and its affiliated “action fund,” which shares the same office and staff.

In the 1970s, Phyllis Schlafly pioneered the idea of having (c)(3) and (c)(4) organizations work together under one roof, each with its own separate board and tax status, but with common leadership and staff. For decades, her Eagle organization was the only major interest group to adopt that dual structure, which was blessed by a 1983

decision of the U.S. Supreme Court: *Regan v. Taxation With Representation*, 461 U.S. 540.

Unlike Phyllis Schlafly, who frugally managed small donations from thousands of supporters, Neera Tanden enjoys millions of dollars in grants from major corporations and foundations. Among the household names that have given five- to seven-figure donations to CAP are Walmart, AT&T, Microsoft, Facebook, Citibank and Bank of America.

With major corporations funding the opposition to Trump, and with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce openly opposing Trump’s popular positions on trade and immigration, the Trump administration will have to fight on every front to accomplish what his supporters are expecting. Many of the same corporations that fund the Left to oppose Trump are also funding the Republican Congress, where they will try to enact Speaker Paul Ryan’s agenda instead of President Trump’s.

President-elect Trump is preparing for the coming battle by keeping “the two Steves” on board. While the media focuses on the parade of people being nominated for various cabinet secretaries, the President-elect’s most important appointments were for his White House staff: Stephen K. Bannon as chief strategist (formal title: senior counselor to the president) and Stephen Miller as chief speechwriter (formal title: senior adviser to the president for policy).

The value of Steve Bannon can be judged by testimonial published on Dec. 30 by the great David Horowitz, who has chronicled a lifetime of battling the Left in a series of books including *Radical Son*. Horowitz, who also helped Stephen Miller start a conservative student club at Duke University, nominated Stephen Bannon for “man of the year” because of Bannon’s indispensable role in guiding Trump to victory.

Horowitz sees in Bannon what Bannon saw in Trump: someone with “an affinity for the blue-collar voters who eventually put Trump over the top. Instinctively combative, Bannon understood how important it was for the candidate to break free from the mainstream media filter that was busy crucifying him.”

“Most importantly,” Horowitz wrote, “Bannon and Trump shared a courage unique in Republican quarters. Call it character. The ability to stand firm under fire. For Bannon and Trump, getting America back on track took precedence over hurt progressive feelings. They did not back down under even the heaviest left-wing fire.”

In his own year-end interview with his former colleagues at Breitbart News, Stephen Bannon promised: “I think 2017 will be, actually, more exciting than 2016 was.” But he cautioned Trump supporters to “stay engaged” in order to “hold people accountable.”

“The Hobbits and the Deplorables had a great run in 2016,” Bannon continued. “Everybody mocked them and ridiculed them, and now they’ve spoken. I think people are engaged; they feel like they have a voice.

“It’s going to be a great year. Stay engaged.”

Trump Starts Draining the Swamp

Donald Trump promised to “drain the swamp” when he reached the White House, but Washington’s swamp creatures are putting up a heck of a fight. The people who inhabit the permanent government are doing their best to resist and obstruct the kind of change that Trump promised.

A good example is the furious reaction to the news that Trump accepted a 10-minute courtesy call from the president of Taiwan. As if on cue, Washington-based pundits and so-called experts erupted with criticism of Trump for taking the call, and some even warned that it could provoke war with China.

Taiwan is a free and independent nation of 24 million Chinese people who live on an island off the Chinese coast. Ever since Jimmy Carter, U.S. presidents have refused to extend diplomatic recognition to Taiwan, whose official name is the Republic of China, preferring to do business with the Communist People’s Republic on the mainland.

As we’ve learned to expect, Trump responded to his critics on Twitter: “Did China ask us if it was OK to devalue their currency (making it hard for our companies to compete), heavily tax our products going into their country (the U.S. doesn’t tax them) or to build a massive military complex in the middle of the South China Sea? I don’t think so!”

The uproar inside the Beltway over Taiwan’s telephone call is a skirmish in the coming battle over global trade. No matter which party wins elections, Washington is still the place where foreign lobbyists can gain access to the lucrative American market through one-sided trade deals.

The Taiwanese telephone call came right after the “Carrier coup” – the deal brokered by the President- and Vice President-elect to save nearly 1,000 manufacturing jobs from moving to Mexico. Trump astounded even his critics by redeeming a campaign promise so quickly, even before he’s inaugurated.

The Republican primary contest was in full swing last February when Carrier, the famous maker of air

conditioners, announced it would close a large factory in Indianapolis and relocate its production to Monterrey, Mexico. That decision would have allowed the company to eliminate 1,400 jobs where Americans earn over \$20 an hour and replace them with Mexicans earning \$3 an hour.

A cell phone video captured a hapless Carrier manager giving the bad news to a roomful of angry workers who were soon to be laid off. The manager pleaded that “this is strictly a business decision” the company made in order to “stay competitive and protect the business for the long term.”

Trump took up the cause of the Carrier workers, who perfectly illustrated his campaign speeches about the costs of bad trade deals, especially NAFTA. Trump rode the issue to win Indiana, first with a decisive victory over Ted Cruz in the May 3 primary, before cruising to a 19-point victory over Hillary in the general election.

As usual, Trump celebrated on Twitter: “The U.S. is going to substantially reduce taxes and regulations on businesses, but any business that leaves our country for another country, fires its employees, builds a new factory or plant in the other country, and then thinks it will sell its product back into the U.S. without retribution or consequence, is WRONG!”

Although the Carrier deal involved much more carrot than stick, Trump’s tweet repeated his earlier warnings to companies pondering a move offshore: “There will be a tax on our soon to be strong border of 35% for these companies wanting to sell their product, cars, A.C. units etc., back across the border. This tax will make leaving financially difficult, but these companies are able to move between all 50 states, with no tax or tariff being charged.”

In the final installment of his 6-part tweet, Trump concluded: “Please be forewarned prior to making a very expensive mistake! THE UNITED STATES IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS.”

In a single brilliant stroke, Trump has already begun to reward the votes of his supporters while disarming the fears of his opponents. A new poll from Politico/Morning Consult finds that 60 percent of voters have a more favorable view of Donald Trump as a result of Carrier’s decision to keep some of its manufacturing jobs in Indiana, while only 9 percent view him less favorably.

Before the election, the same people who assured us that Trump could not win, also predicted that his election would lead to a stock market crash and a collapse of world trade. One month after he won, business conditions have already improved so much that people are calling it the “Trump bump” in the economy.

Trump’s decisive handling of the Carrier crisis recalls the way President Reagan, in his first weeks in office, dealt with the illegal strike by air traffic controllers. George Shultz said that was Reagan’s most important foreign policy decision because it showed America’s enemies that our president meant what he said and his words were to be taken seriously.

Trump Assembles His ‘Dream Cabinet’

President-elect Donald Trump’s nomination of Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions for Attorney General was perhaps the finest Cabinet pick of any president in the last half-century. Senator Sessions will bring much-needed enforcement of our immigration laws to the Department of Justice.

The perfect encore would be Kris Kobach to the Department of Homeland Security. Currently serving as Secretary of State in Kansas, Kobach has been a conservative leader on immigration and other issues for more than a decade.

Along with Phyllis Schlafly, Kobach has been the guiding force behind the increasingly conservative Republican national platform. He served on the Republican platform committee for the last three consecutive conventions: 2008, 2012, and 2016.

At the 2016 convention, Kobach was credited with inserting a provision into the platform to build a wall along our southern border with Mexico, as Trump repeatedly promised. Instead of milquetoast language about electronic monitoring, the platform calls for a physical barrier on our southern border.

On Sunday, November 20, the athletic-looking Kobach met with Trump amid the rolling hills of Bedminster, New Jersey, and Kobach was evidently loaded with fabulous ideas for real immigration reform. A photographer caught a glimpse of how prepared Kobach was, by snapping a picture that happened to include a portion of Kobach’s detailed, typewritten agenda for his nearly hour-long meeting with Trump.

Thanks to high-resolution photography, we could see that Kobach’s agenda for Homeland Security began with “extreme vetting for high-risk aliens; question them about support for Sharia law” and continued with “reduce intake of Syrian refugees to zero.” Reinstatement of the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) would insure that “all aliens from high-risk areas are tracked.”

Also visible in Kobach’s written plan was a promise to deport a “record number of criminal aliens in the first year” and to begin a “rapid build” of the border wall. He would also “draft amendments to National Voter Registration Act” (known as Motor Voter) allowing states to require proof of citizenship from persons registering to vote.

Kobach was long a favorite of Phyllis Schlafly, who had him speak at her conferences and arranged to file legal briefs in defense of his laws against illegal aliens. Kobach’s proactive approach to reversing illegal immigration makes him the ideal candidate for a high position in the Trump administration, either in the Justice Department or the Department of Homeland Security.

Kobach’s efforts improved the Republican platform dramatically from 2008 to 2012 to 2016. Kobach remarked later how much Trump supported the platform, in contrast

to the “real tension” that the McCain campaign had with the platform in 2008. Kobach also advanced the Second Amendment in the Republican platform, successfully including language to oppose gun control against weapons that are needed to defend against mass shootings.

Kobach, aged 50, has a prodigious intellect and limitless energy that would boost Trump’s entire administration. In addition to immigration, Kobach is also an expert on voting laws, which would be immensely helpful to the new Department of Justice as it unwinds Obama Administration policies in blocking state-initiated election reforms.

Kobach and Phyllis Schlafly were visionaries in sounding the alarm bells about the harm caused by immigration long before the issue tipped the balance in a presidential election. Kobach even wrote some of the ordinances used by cities to push back against an overwhelming influx of illegal immigration that burdened their schools, hospitals, and law enforcement.

There are more than 41 million immigrants in the United States today, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Immigrants vote for the Democratic Party in astronomical percentages, often using ballots printed in their own foreign languages to do so.

Los Angeles County alone has an immigrant population of 3.4 million people, and Hillary Clinton racked up one of her largest margins of victory there. Liberals criticize Donald Trump for not winning the popular vote, but votes by immigrants in California using foreign language ballots should not dictate who the president will be for the other 49 states that reject California’s embrace of sanctuary cities.

Immigrants voted the American hero Sheriff Joe Arpaio out of office in Arizona’s Maricopa County, which has one of the largest immigrant populations in our entire country. The shifting demographics in this traditionally Republican county gave Trump only a 3-point margin of victory, where just four years ago Mitt Romney won the county by 11 points.

The long-term plan of liberals is to turn Arizona and Texas into “blue” states based on massive immigration that reliably votes Democratic. Arizona nearly went for Hillary Clinton this year, while Texas voted for Trump by a smaller margin than other conservative states.

Trump was elected to halt such political manipulation, and he could not have picked a finer Attorney General than Jeff Sessions. Senator Sessions will bring much-needed integrity to the office, and should discontinue the overheated litigation that the Obama Administration was pursuing at taxpayer expense to advance the Leftist agenda.

On December 12, the President-elect announced his choice of retired Lt. Gen. John F. Kelly, USMC to be the next Secretary of Homeland Security. On December 15, Kobach was at Trump Tower for a second hour-long meeting with the President-elect, raising hopes that he’s being considered for an important position at DHS to enforce our immigration laws.

Kris Kobach met Phyllis Schlafly one last time at the Cleveland airport on July 22, as they were both leaving the Republican convention, and she would have been thrilled for him to join the Trump administration.

Trump, the Great Communicator (on Twitter)

How did it happen that a man we were told could not possibly be nominated, let alone elected, is about to take the oath of office as the 45th president of the United States?

Part of the reason is that Donald Trump spoke to a set of hot-button issues (immigration and trade) that no other Republican was willing to touch, and those issues resonated with thousands of Americans who had previously voted for Obama. But even with the right issues and a brilliant slogan, “Make America Great Again,” Donald Trump still had to bypass the mainstream media in order to speak directly to the American people, as Ronald Reagan did a generation earlier.

For the benefit of Americans too young to remember, Reagan was called the “Great Communicator” because he effectively used television to connect directly with voters. Reagan frequently won people over with a folksy story or a perfectly timed joke, like the way he deflected a hostile question about his age during the final presidential debate by leaving everyone, even his opponent, in congenial uproarious laughter.

Having grown up in the construction industry, Trump uses a blunt and caustic style that is the direct opposite of Reagan’s affable avuncularity. But Trump has mastered the art of the tweet, sending out very short messages on Twitter, which provides an effective way to connect directly with the public.

Consider the tweet he sent out just before Christmas: “The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes.” The media thundered in outrage, claiming the tweet endangered national security and could spark a new Cold War with Russia.

But Vladimir Putin, who controls Russia’s nuclear weapons, dismissed the tweet as “nothing out of the ordinary” because Trump had already promised many times to rebuild U.S. military forces. Most foreign leaders, whether they are friends or adversaries, respect a President who says what he means and means what he says.

Limited to 140 characters (20 to 25 words), Twitter would not have been much help to Reagan, but it has been a perfect fit for Trump’s blunt candor. Trump has a genuine style on Twitter and his voice comes through loud and clear in that medium, as authentic as Reagan’s mastery of speaking on camera.

Effective use of Twitter requires an economy of style and expression comparable to a great bumper sticker, such as “If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.” Phyllis Schlafly, a master of political communication herself, emphasized the value of honing her message to

an effective sound bite, presenting “more facts in fewer words” than other conservatives.

A good example of Trump’s mastery of the media happened in November when a student at tiny Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts burned the American flag to protest the election results, and the liberal college president responded by removing our flag from its place of honor on campus. More than 1,000 veterans gathered to protest that cowardly response, but the incident drew little national attention until Trump unloaded a tweet: “Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag - if they do, there must be consequences - perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!”

The media jumped on Trump with a fierce intensity, keeping the story alive for days, until they realized Trump was being helped, not hurt by their criticism. Most Americans agree with Trump’s opinion even if a divided Supreme Court ruled otherwise.

Even Obama’s press secretary weighed in, saying Trump should submit himself to “skeptical questioning from an independent news media” at a formal press conference with its built-in advantages for the liberal media. As skillful as Reagan was, at times he struggled with rude reporters repeatedly trying to trip him up.

Instead of taking the media bait, Trump lobbs Twitter bombs like this one, in December: “Just watched @NBCNightlyNews - So biased, inaccurate and bad, point after point. Just can’t get much worse, although @CNN is right up there!” He doesn’t spare the late-night shows, either: “Just tried watching Saturday Night Live - unwatchable! Totally biased, not funny and the Baldwin impersonation just can’t get any worse. Sad.”

When the media feel compelled to report President-elect Trump’s tweets, repeating his own unfiltered words, it means he and not they control the daily news cycle. When they have to interrupt their own agenda to report how politicians and pundits respond to what Trump just said, media-created stories get lost in the shuffle.

Without press conferences, liberals have difficulty setting the agenda for a Republican president. The first President Bush held three times as many press conferences in four years as his predecessor Ronald Reagan did in eight, and the outcome was a disastrous defeat in 1992. Americans do not want a president whose agenda is set by the press corps in Washington, D.C.

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