

Feeding Frenzy Over Impeachment

Make no mistake about it; those who voted heavily for the Democratic Party in the last Congressional election were voting for the House of Representative to impeach the President of the United States. Impeachment is not a new idea although it was not actually utilized until the post-Civil War President Andrew Johnson in 1868.

Likewise, contempt citations against the Attorney General of the United States are getting to be old hat. In 2012 Attorney General Eric Holder, nominated by President Barack Obama, failed to comply with a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee subpoena seeking documents relating to communications made by the Department of Justice in response to the Committee's investigation into what was euphemistically called "Fast and Furious." The release of the full Mueller report by Attorney General William Barr is yet another excuse for Congress and the Executive Branch to spend time and taxpayer money fighting over political priorities. The investigator of the Trump Campaign, Robert Mueller left it up to the Attorney General of the United States as to what to do with this report. Barr did not release enough to make the opposition party happy. A mill cannot very well grind out flour without plenty of raw grain. The Mueller report raised lots of questions about Donald Trump, the people who supported him and shady campaign techniques. Welcome to the real world. Dirty tricks were not invented by Richard Nixon, but they nevertheless have been used ever since. Whether it was Willie Horton or the dark fear of Barry Goldwater's hand on the red telephone, demonizing one political leader or another is getting to be the norm. Nevertheless, Americans never seem to lose their thirst for political drama. We say we are disgusted by how politicians waste our time, but any expert will tell you that negative publicity works. I have run a few political campaigns myself and the temptation to dirty an opponent is irresistible. In the first place, those who donate money want it used to disparage their political adversaries. Secondly, the polling shows that people pay attention to a nasty story more than stories about kissing babies and helping old ladies across the street. Plain and simple, we are all peeping toms, just wanting to get a glimpse of that long haired lady riding the horse without any clothes.

It is a sad but true political commentary that opponents of any President will never see any good. During the Obama Administration, I could not find a Republican who saw any virtue in Barack Obama. He was a foreigner, a crook, a schemer and about as un-American as they get. To every Democrat I speak to, Donald Trump is a crook, a schemer, an un-American Russian agent, and well, you know the rest. The Administration has changed but the allegations have not. If Hillary Clinton had become President, all Republicans would be talking about are the nefarious dealings of her family foundation and the fact that her Department of State made it possible for the Russians to gain most of the United States uranium reserves. Since she is not President, that story has fallen by the wayside. Who wants to investigate somebody that really no longer has a political opponent?

Donald Trump has done a better job than most people will admit. He gets the credit for perhaps the best economic in our history, just as he would be trashed if the economy were poor. Lovers of Barack Obama talk about how he saved the country from an impending Bush depression. Republicans say that Obama presided over a lackluster no growth economy with a poorly planned and executed economic recovery scheme. Maybe both the compliments and the criticisms are legitimate.

President Trump has reset American foreign policy to focus on what is best for America. Interestingly, in spite of his bravado and bullying, Donald Trump has not started any wars, but he has helped to wind down a few. Trump has used the tried and true method of surgical strikes and economic sanctions to manipulate other countries. What is so terrible about that?

Donald Trump has worked hard to get American allies to step up to the plate, taking care of their own military obligations and working as true partners with the United States. Only recently, the FDA banned pelvic mesh which has tortured women and destroyed lives. It took Donald Trump to do that, not the prior administration. The horror of these devices has been known for a long time. It took Donald Trump, not the holdovers in the FAA from the prior administration, to ground the dangerous Boeing 737 Max.

As a devoted consumerite and promoter of the interests of the powerless, it has to be acknowledged that this administration has done a pretty good job. It was Eric Holder under the prior administration who, according to a criminal defense lawyer I know, qualified more federal cases for the death penalty than any Attorney General previously. I have not checked that statistic, but the guy who told me about it was a dyed in the wool Democrat anti-capital punishment lawyer.

It becomes almost impossible to truly evaluate any President of the United States without politicizing the subject.

According the Congressional Research Service, efforts to punish an Executive Branch official for non-compliance with committee subpoenas through the criminal contempt of Congress "will likely prove unavailable...." The question is not whether Barr will produce the entirety of the Mueller report but rather whether the Democrats can keep the pot stirred sufficiently to cause a big turnout of their troops in the 2020 election. As for Donald Trump; will he be able to convince the American electorate that he is not such a bad guy but rather has done more for Americans, whether minorities or other marginalized citizens, than any president in history? Will the message resonate that it is "all about the economy stupid?" How will President Trump connect with enough voters to win the Electoral College given the anti-Trump industry which has sprung up in this country? The answer is that Trump will do it the same way that Barack Obama did. He will appeal to his base while touting that his policies have generally been good for everyone. Unfortunately, Trump does not have either the

surface charm or the apparent gracefulness of Barack Obama. That may help Trump in 2020 and it might hurt him.

Donald Trump may not have made America totally Great Again, but his achievements should not be overlooked in the war of words that now defines the ongoing American experiment, as the Founders of this country like to say.

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