

## NEWSLETTER

#### December 2024

#### **SPOTLIGHT**

### A Landslide for Common Sense

They didn't see it coming.

Just like the captain of the HMS Titanic was oblivious to the ever-present icebergs bobbing in the North Atlantic on that cold April night, so the Democratic Party didn't foresee the American people waking up to their Progressive policies.

It didn't take a rocket scientist to know that an open border would lead to mass illegal immigration, allowing millions of lawbreakers into our country including tens of thousands of convicted murderers, rapists, and pedophiles... and a bunch of terrorists, too.

Nor did you have to be a brain surgeon to realize that taking a soft-on-crime approach would lead to more of the same.

And you didn't need a PhD in economics to know that pouring free money into the economy would result in record inflation highlighted by soaring food and gas prices... or that forcing consumers to buy electric cars and trade in their gas stoves wouldn't go over very well.

All it took was good, old-fashioned common sense.

## The GOP Is the New Party of the Working Class

Who would've thunk it?

For more than a century, the Democratic Party could count on the loyal support of unions, blue collar workers, and minorities. For whatever reason, they saw the Democrats as the ones who cared about the "little guy" and looked out for their interests.

As for the Republicans, they were perceived to be a bunch of fat cats who just wanted to line their own pockets at the expense of the working class. And as we know in both life and politics, perception is often reality.

From FDR to LBJ... steel workers, coal miners, electricians, auto mechanics, and plumbers usually voted a straight Democratic ticket. That trend continued well into the 21st century - with a minor hiccup during the Reagan administration and helped catapult Barack Obama and Joe Biden into the White House.

And then came Donald J. Trump. Whether he caused the change or was simply a beneficiary of it (or both), President Trump won the votes of working-class Americans because they identified with the billionaire from New York who was rough around the edges. He spoke their language and listened to their concerns. Meanwhile, the Democrats turned a deaf ear to middle-class Americans who were struggling to make ends meet, choosing to cozy up to the liberal elite instead.

Somehow, "Lunch bucket Joe" convinced the union rank and file that he was one of them, but Kamala Harris made it crystal clear that she preferred the company of Oprah, J-Lo, and Cardi B... and it cost her.

The bottom line is that, for generation after generation, the Democratic Party took blue collar workers for granted, just like they did minorities. But you can only get away with ignoring an entire voting block for so long before they start to feel like a jilted lover.

Here is how Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont who caucuses with the Democrats, described the situation. "It should come as no great surprise that a Democratic Party which has abandoned working class people would find that the working class has abandoned them."

OUCH! Sometimes - make that ALL the time - the truth hurts. And that inconvenient truth is this: the Democratic Party no longer belongs to or caters to working class Americans. Instead, it dances to the tune of the liberal elite on both coasts... and so, it is only fitting that those were about the only states that Kamala Harris won.

Just days before the election, Joe Biden let the cat out of the bag, calling Trump supporters "garbage."

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## The Mass Deportation of Bureaucrats

When you go to a concert, there is usually a warm-up act (or two) before the A-lister takes the stage. Circuses follow a similar pattern, saving the "center ring" for the main attraction.

Well, my friends, of all President Trump's cabinet picks and other appointments, I have a feeling that two of the top performers are going to be Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, who were named to oversee the proposed Department of Government Efficiency.

Do you remember when Nancy Pelosi said a few years ago that the federal government's budget had been "trimmed to the bone" and there was no more fat? Well, Elon and Vivek have three words for the woman who was named by Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) as the "Porker of the Month" on more than one occasion: "Hold our beers!"

At a recent gala at Mar-a-Lago hosted by the America First Policy Institute, Ramaswamy thanked President Trump "for making sure that Elon Musk and I are in a position to start the mass deportations of millions of unelected federal bureaucrats out of the D.C. bureaucracy."

"And I don't know if you've got to know Elon yet, but he doesn't bring a chisel, he brings a chainsaw, and we're going to be taking it to that bureaucracy," Ramaswamy added. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

For his part, Musk is on record as saying that he hopes to reduce the federal budget by \$2 trillion per year. "There are so many [agencies] that people have never heard of, and that have overlapping areas of responsibilities," the richest man in the world said last month. "Your money is being wasted, and the Department of Government Efficiency will fix that", he added during a campaign stop in Pennsylvania.

Considering that the entire federal government operates on a \$6.7 trillion annual budget - about 1/3 of which is earmarked for mandatory spending (Social Security, Medicare, etc.) - Musk's goal is being called unrealistic by his critics. However, Musk has never been one to listen to his naysayers and the success of his Space X program demonstrates that he isn't afraid to shoot high... and shooting high means reducing the number of federal agencies from 400 to 99.

Some economists are tepidly supportive of Musk's efforts, such as Elaine Kamarck, a senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution who managed the Clinton Administration's National Performance Review, an effort to cut government spending in the 1990s. "Frankly, it does need to be done again, so every few decades you really need to look at everything," she said. However, Kamarck remined skeptical about Musk and Ramaswamy's chances for success.

Clinton's NPR was able to eliminate 300,000 federal jobs, part of the reason why the budget was balanced late in his second term (some of the other reasons were a Republican congress led by Newt Gingrich, higher corporate and individual tax rates for high income wage earners, increased revenues due to the tech boom, and defense savings known as the "peace dividend" following the collapse of the Soviet Union).

That proves it can be done. It also wasn't the first time that a president was intent on reducing federal spending and the size of government.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan created the Grace Commission, led by wealthy businessman J. Peter Grace, the CEO of W. R. Grace & Company, a chemicals company. About 150 business leaders volunteered to serve on the commission, which ultimately recommended 2,500 reforms, according to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Although most of them weren't implemented due to a noncompliant congress, the recommendations formed a blueprint for those reformers that followed... like Gingrich, Musk, and Ramaswamy.

Skeptics claim that DODE isn't yet an actual government department and that all spending bills must originate in Congress, specifically in the House of Representatives. Both points are valid, but also smokescreens being used by critics (mostly Washington insiders and career bureaucrats trying to defend their turf as well as their lucrative pensions).

After all, wouldn't an outside-thegovernment agency tasked with eliminating waste and inefficiency have a better vantage point from 30,000 feet above the Washington swamp? And although the Constitution clearly states that Congress alone has the authority to appropriate money, nowhere does it say that all the allocated money has to be spent.

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### A Landslide for Common Sense

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Perhaps the poster child for the woke nonsense that the Democrats pushed - and voters rejected - is Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. During her confirmation hearings in 2022, she was asked by Senator Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee a simple question.

"Can you provide a definition for the word 'woman'?" Sen. Blackburn asked.

"I'm not a biologist," Mrs. Jackson replied.

Blackburn wasn't satisfied with Jackson's simplistic and jaw-dropping four-word response and so she fired back with a scathing oneliner of her own.

"The fact that you can't give me a straight answer about something as fundamental as what a woman is underscores the dangers of the kind of progressive education that we are hearing about." Americans who watched, read, or heard about the back-and-forth between Blackburn and Jackson scratched their heads in bewilderment, because every last one of them could answer the question better than Jackson did.

For centuries, a woman was defined as the female member of the human race who had different reproductive organs than men. Women are also the only sex that can get pregnant and give birth. And since the discovery of DNA, we now know that women have two X chromosomes whereas men have one X and one Y.

Pretty simple and straight-forward, right? And yet, an accomplished judge who had been nominated to the highest court in the land couldn't - or chose not to - answer the question.

Believe it or not, Progressives in the mainstream media rose to Jackson's defense. A columnist for USA Today wrote the following...

"Scientists, gender law scholars and philosophers of biology said Jackson's response was commendable, though perhaps misleading. It's useful, they say, that Jackson suggested science could help answer Blackburn's question, but they note that a competent biologist would not be able to offer a definitive answer either. Scientists agree there is no sufficient way to clearly define what makes someone a woman, and with billions of women on the planet, there is much variation."

Did you catch that? The columnist claimed that a "competent biologist" wasn't capable of determining who is a woman and who is not. And yet, most kindergarten children using simple common sense could give a reasonably factual answer to the same question.

Much to the Progressives dismay, the American people are no longer buying what the Democratic Party is selling and with good reason. Because if the Dems can't figure out the most basic questions facing America, how on earth can they be expected to handle - let alone solve - the more complex ones?

### The GOP Is the New Party of the Working Class

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Unfortunately for Joe, Kamala, and the rest of the Democratic hierarchy, that trash can was filled with the same blue collar workers who built their Party, only to be cast aside like a bunch of day-old rubbish. Meanwhile, Donald Trump made them feel welcome and they returned the favor. Perhaps FOX News commentator Greg Gutfeld put it best. "The Democrats shouldn't be surprised that when you call people names, they don't like it." Not only that, but people who are ignored and insulted tend to pull the lever for the other party, the one that openly courted and embraced them.

Coming in January: Grandparents for a Godly America launches its first chapter!

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# The Mass Deportation of Bureaucrats

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With the United States more than \$36 trillion in debt and our annual interest payments surpassing the entire defense budget, it is time for Ramaswamy to wield an axe and Musk his chainsaw. As they say, drastic times call for drastic measure... such as Vivek's proposal to shut down the Education Department, the FBI, and the IRS while reducing the federal workforce by 75%.

Kamarck still thinks it can't be done because, according to her, "Every single thing in the federal government is big and complicated, and there are layers and layers of complexity." Doesn't she see that "big", "complicated", and "layers and layers" is the problem?

She also lost me when she added that "AI Gore (yes, that AI Gore, the discredited climate alarmist) and I relied on hundreds of experienced civil servants to tell us how this worked."

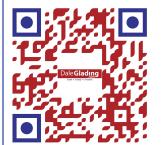
C'mon Elaine, everyone knows that Al Gore is the poster child for an oversized and intrusive government bureaucracy... and asking civil servants to admit that they are overpaid leeches is like assigning a fox to protect the henhouse. It just ain't gonna happen!

I always found it ludicrous that

whenever a congressional impasse leads to a government shutdown, they send all "unessential workers" home... only to recall them from their furloughs/vacations with backpay. If they really are unessential, why not send them packing permanently?

Better to follow the words of Thomas Jefferson when he said, "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical."

In other words, it's time to clean house... and Elon and Vivek are just the guys to do it.



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