

October 2009

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## All the King's Horses and All the King's Men

*"If you want to know what I'm about, look at the people around me."*

--Commentator Glenn Beck paraphrasing President Obama, 10/6/2009

Could be that Barack Obama is the least "seasoned" person to ever occupy the Oval Office. Could be that his administration will oversee more government and societal change than occurred under Andrew Johnson, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin Roosevelt combined. And it could be (borrowing from de Tocqueville) that America will cease to be great because America has ceased to be good.

While Mr. Obama is thought to be a prevaricator, racking up a record string of "present" (no opinion) votes as a state lawmaker and one-term U.S. Senator, his vision for America is beginning to take shape—one disturbing cabinet appointment followed by another.

Washingtonians know President Obama's new Commerce Secretary, former governor **Gary Locke**. They also know that except for his frequent excursions and oft-touted ancestral ties to China, Locke failed to distinguish himself in trade matters except as an exporter of jobs to other states and countries—including the move of Boeing's world headquarters from Seattle to Chicago. But he did overhaul the state's public employee benefits program to treat partners of homosexual state employees as married spouses.

The new Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, another local, is former King County Executive **Ron Sims**. In "housing," his experience includes an attempt to locate a "tent city" on a county-owned property near Bothell—a move that was blocked by a lawsuit and tabled by county council members in 2005. His "urban" plans were equally unorthodox. In 2001, Mr. Sims called for severe restrictions on church and parochial school growth in rural King County—limiting new construction to 20,000 square feet per site. But, based on warnings from the county's legal staff that such specific targeting could raise constitutional concerns, Sims amended his plan to include public schools.

In another facet of "home construction," Sims, a strong proponent of homosexual marriage, invited five homosexual "couples" to sue him for marriage licenses. Taking his advice, the matter was fast-tracked to the State Supreme Court where a 5-to-4 vote to leave marriage in the hands of state lawmakers disappointed Mr. Sims, but certainly didn't end his dream.

A third Obama pick from the northwest is the new drug czar, **Gil Kerlikowski**, former Seattle Police Chief and ardent gun control advocate. Prior to his tenure in Seattle, Kerlikowski was Bill Clinton's Director of Grants for Community Oriented Policing. He helped design and create the COMPASS database, then approved an illegal Seattle COMPASS grant application that was missing critical privacy requirements—followed by an appointment to be Seattle's Police Chief.

Ethan Nadelmann, founder of Lindesmith Center, a George Soros funded drug legalization advocacy group is OK with Kerlikowski, noting Seattle is a leader in drug policy reform.

The new top man in America's "Justice" Department is **Eric Holder**, who, along with then President Bill Clinton, engineered a presidential pardon for Marc Rich, the infamous commodities trader who fled the country in 1983 to escape prosecution for tax evasion, racketeering, and trading with the enemy. A congressional report called Mr. Holder's conduct in the matter unconscionable, citing, in particular, his failure to alert prosecutors of a pending pardon for a person in a fugitive status.

At his side is the new number two man, **David Ogden**, whose chief responsibility will be to prosecute those who violate federal obscenity laws. Tellingly, the influential porn attorney Colin Hardacre called Ogden's appointment "a good sign for the adult industry."<sup>1</sup>

Ogden has been legal counsel for the ACLU, *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Adam & Eve*. Representing child pornographers before the U.S. Supreme Court, Ogden claimed that "Little Blondes," and "Little Girl Bottoms" (deemed "clearly designed to pander to pedophiles" by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals) weren't really pornography. He has also long fought to remove Internet porn filters in public libraries.

Heading up the Justice Department Civil Division is **Tony West** who represented "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh. His wife is the former director of the ACLU of Northern California. Another new assistant attorney general, **Dawn Johnsen**, is the former legal director for NARAL.

**Elena Kagan** is the new Solicitor General of the United States. As the first female dean of Harvard Law School (2003), she achieved notoriety mostly for her aggressive support of a policy barring military recruiters from campus. Although her job is to represent the United States before the U.S. Supreme Court, Kagan has no trial experience. And **Harold Koh**, the former law school dean at Yale, will represent America at the U.N. and the rapidly developing INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. Koh is a transnationalist who believes American law should be interpreted according to international "norms" rather than the U.S. Constitution. In a 2007 speech at the Yale Club, he said he didn't see why Shariah law couldn't be applied to govern cases in the United States.

**David Hamilton**, a former ACORN fundraiser, is Obama's pick for a slot on the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. First nominated to a district court bench by Bill Clinton, he was rated "not qualified" by the American Bar Association. In 2003, Judge Hamilton struck down part of an Indiana law requiring abortion clinics to provide women with information about abortion alternatives in the presence of a physician or nurse. Hamilton also issued a controversial ruling banning public prayers offered "in Jesus name," but not the use of the Arabic 'Allah,' saying, "...the court sees little risk that the choice of [Arabic] language would advance a particular religion or disparage others."

After an extensive review of more than 60 high-level administration appointees, we find a very disturbing picture. Those in charge of giving shape and force to U.S. foreign and domestic policies are the kind our mommas warned us about.

A long-time (anti-military) columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* is now a senior Pentagon advisor on issues of national security. The new *regulatory czar* wants organ donation to be non-voluntary. The *science czar* has advocated for compulsory population-control laws. The FCC's *diversity czar* says, "...free speech is warped to protect global corporations and block rules that would promote democratic governance." The *climate czar* told auto executives, "We put nothing in writing." And, God forgive us, the founder of the *Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network* (GLSEN) has become America's *safe schools czar*<sup>2</sup>....ad infinitum...

Proverbs 29:2 observes that when "a wicked man rules, the people groan." But after considering some 27 grievances in the *Declaration of Independence*, freedom-loving Americans had better do more than just groan. Otherwise, someone owes King George a mighty big apology!

*Rick Forcier*

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<sup>1</sup> Citizens for Community Values, 3/13/2009

<sup>2</sup> Czars: Rose Brooks (Pentagon advisor), Cass Sunstein (Regulatory), Dr. John Holdren (Science), Mark Lloyd (FCC Diversity), Carol Browner (Climate), Kevin Jennings (Safe Schools)