

September 2012

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Nowhere Else to Turn

“Wherever the Church is aroused and the world’s wickedness arrested, somebody has been praying.”

--A. T. Pierson

Three-years-ago, we opined that Barack Obama was perhaps the least “seasoned” person to ever occupy the Oval Office (*All the King’s Horses and All the King’s Men*, Oct 2009). Although lacking executive experience in either public or private sectors, we expressed concern that this president could arrogate sufficient power to oversee more government and societal change than occurred under Presidents Andrew Johnson, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin Roosevelt—combined. On the eve of Mr. Obama’s appeal to voters for a second term, that concern remains.

So what troubled us? First, Americans seemed to know very little about the chief executive they had just hired. And, second, based upon the friends he brought with him to Washington, it was apparent that the President had a radical new vision for America—and might be able to implement it.

For starters, we could see that ABORTION was a big component in Mr. Obama’s *Hope and Change* following the selection of former Kansas Governor **Kathleen Sebelius** to head the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Arguably America’s most pro-abortion ex-governor, Sebelius had provided safe harbor for the leading *late-term* abortion doctor, the late George R. Tiller. While under investigation by the Kansas Attorney General and amid increasing calls for criminal charges by the state legislature, Tiller and his clinic staff were honored by Gov. Sebelius “at a lavish secret party held at Cedar Crest, the Governor’s mansion in early April, 2007.”¹

We think recent HHS demands for all hospitals, employers and insurers to provide or pay for abortions, demonstrates a vast *change* from the Clinton years when Democrats called for abortions to be “legal, safe, and rare.” The current administration has, in fact, excised the words *safe* and *rare*.

Ms. Sebelius also holds dear another “value” in common with other Obama appointees—an unwavering commitment to the “gay rights” agenda. As chief implementer of *Obamacare*, Sebelius warned the Human Rights Campaign earlier this year that progress made on gay and lesbian rights under Obama could be “wiped out in a heartbeat” if the president is not re-elected. Since her “political meeting” was charged to taxpayers—a violation of the Hatch Act—investigators with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel have referred the case to the President for “appropriate action.”

Indeed, virtually every Obama appointee—regardless of departmental mission—has demonstrated some level of commitment to the homosexual community.

Kevin Jennings, the *Safe Schools Czar*, founded the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). **Ron Sims** a new Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was summoned from Seattle, where, as King County Executive, he had called for severe restrictions on church and parochial school growth in rural King County and had invited homosexual “couples” to sue him for “marriage” licenses. And, former Governor **Gary Locke**, appointed to be Secretary of Commerce, overhauled Washington State’s public employee benefits program to treat partners of homosexual state employees as married spouses—while state lawmakers were in recess. Nice work.

Results? In less-than-one presidential term, the Administration and the Democrat Party have morphed from silence on gays in the military and gay “marriage” to all-out militant support. We’d call that *change*.

We also drew conclusions about Mr. Obama’s concept of the rule-of-law based on his selections to key positions in the U. S. Justice Department—beginning with Attorney General, **Eric Holder**. It was 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.

Then there was **David Ogden**—chosen by Obama to “prosecute” violators of federal obscenity laws. Previously, Ogden had been legal counsel for the *ACLU*, *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Adam & Eve* and had fought to remove internet porn filters in public libraries. And, across the hall in the Civil Division, Mr. Obama recruited **Tony West** who represented “American Taliban” John Walker Lindh. West is married to the former director of the ACLU of Northern California. Also new at Justice was **Dawn Johnsen**, the former legal director for NARAL. Getting the picture?

Another telling appointment was that of **Elena Kagan** to be the Solicitor General of the United States. Although the Solicitor General represents the United States before the U.S. Supreme Court, Kagan had absolutely no trial experience. None, nada. But she did achieve notoriety as the first female dean of Harvard Law School (2003)—mostly for her aggressive support of a policy barring military recruiters from campus. (Kagan served 14 months as Solicitor General before being nominated and confirmed to a lifetime appointment as a U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice).

And, speaking of the military, where might a long-time anti-military columnist for the Los Angeles times fit into an Obama administration? Try senior Pentagon advisor on “issues of national security.” And a former Seattle Police Chief (**Gil Kerlikowski**) who supports less restrictive drug laws? Why not *Drug Czar*?

How about **Harold Koh**, Obama’s man to represent America at the rapidly developing United Nations 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 U.S.

And, don’t forget **David Hamilton**, a former ACORN fundraiser and Obama pick for a slot on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. 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. He also issued a controversial ruling banning public prayers offered “in Jesus name,” but not the use of the Arabic “Allah.” Hamilton said that he saw little risk that the choice of Arabic language would advance a particular religion or disparage others. The American Bar Association rated Hamilton, “not qualified.”

Included in some 60 jaw-dropping high-level appointments were some extraordinarily weird characters such as the *Regulatory Czar* who has called for non-voluntary organ donations; the *Science Czar* who has advocated for compulsory population-control laws; an FCC *Diversity Czar* who maintains that “free speech is warped to protect global corporations...;” a *Climate Czar* who told auto executives, “We put nothing in writing;” a White House communications director who referred to Mao Zedong as one of her favorite “political philosophers;” and a *Green Jobs Czar* who was a self-described “communist” during the 90s and had blamed “white polluters and white environmentalists for steering poison to minority communities.”²

While America is becoming a nation that excites and codifies untoward behaviors (those shameful things that should not even be uttered in the dark), the Church must press in. Charles Spurgeon once asked, ... *Will not your prayers accomplish that which my preaching fails to do? Is it not likely that the Church has been putting forth its preaching hand but not its praying hand? Oh dear friends! Let us agonize in prayer.*

Rick Forcier

¹ <http://nicedeb.wordpress.com/2009/02/20/tillers-governor-kathleen-sebelius-obamas-pick-for-hhs/>

² www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/09/06/obama-green-jobs-adviser-van-jones-resigns-amid-controversy