

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

If the President Is Silenced, When Do the Billionaire IT Barons Get to You?

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—Immediately led on Jan. 7-8 by Edward Snowden, Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, and Michael Gorbachev, more leading figures in political life and journalism have attacked the attempt at total censorship of President Donald Trump by the

IT billionaires of Silicon Valley, who are trying to impose total control over political speech in the United States—to start.

Today German Chancellor Angela Merkel “blasted” (in Reuters description) Facebook and Twitter censorship of Trump. “The right to freedom of opinion is of fundamental importance,” Steffen Seibert, Merkel’s chief spokesman, told reporters in Berlin on Monday, according to Reuters. “Given that, the Chancellor considers it problematic that the President’s accounts have been permanently suspended.” The First Amendment “can be interfered with,” Merkel’s spokesman said, “but by law and within the framework defined by the legislature—not according to a corporate decision.” Bruno Le Maire, the French Economy Minister, called “the digital oligarchy” the threat to democracy; French Secretary of State for European Affairs Clément Beaune expressed “shock” at the Facebook and Twitter power grab and said, “This should be decided by citizens, not by a CEO,”

The British liberal *Guardian* showed considerable disdain in reporting Australian Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack’s statement denouncing the censorship of Trump—but that was Snowden’s warning: Those who think they like to see Trump silenced, will learn that this is a “turning point” and that if the IT giants can silence a U.S. President, they will try to use that power to silence anyone. Billionaire Mark Zuckerberg’s Facebook pointed in that direction today in a statement implying no further discussion of the Nov. 3 election allowed by anyone—not just by Donald Trump. “We are now removing content containing the phrase ‘stop the steal’ under our Coordinating Harm policy from Facebook and Instagram. We removed the original Stop the Steal group in November and have continued to remove Pages, groups and events that violate any of our policies.”

Investigative journalist Glenn Greenwald, who helped Snowden blow the whistle on the surveillance state, made the same point in a series of tweets today: “Tech monopolies—FB, Google, Apple, Amazon—have more concentrated wealth & power than any in history. They have used

brute force 3 times in 3 months to manipulate US politics: censoring NY Post, banning Trump, destroying Parler. And liberals are overwhelmingly supportive.” Most recently, he declared: “these Silicon Valley monopolies are grave menaces to political freedom & economic well-being.” And prefaced the series: “Authoritarians never believe they’re authoritarians, no matter how much censorship, surveillance, jingoism, & imprisonment they demand. They tell themselves their enemies are so uniquely evil and dangerous—terrorists—that anything done in the name of fighting them is noble.”

This stripping of free speech is now targeting Trump and his most vocal and active supporters. As Ed Snowden observed—echoing Martin Niemöller about the Nazis—you may say, “I’m no active Trump supporter, this is OK with me.” Is this for Biden? It was Joe Biden who, by his own boasting, wrote the Patriot Act in 1994—the Omnibus Counterterrorism Act of 1995. It wasn’t passed, but in 2002 when Attorney General John Ashcroft wrote the Patriot Act itself, he called Biden, recounts Caitlin Johnstone, and said “I’m introducing your bill from 1994.”

Thus if the surveillance state has become the unconstitutional reality of life since 9/11—including making an unholy partnership between the military-intelligence complex and the IT billionaires of Silicon Valley—Joe Biden had already planned that future for America after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

And Biden opposes any tampering now with Section 230 of the Federal Communications Act which allows these tech giants to masquerade as “neutral platforms” while giving them unprecedented censorship power. Experts are suddenly seeing what Trump meant about Section 230. The dean of Tufts University’s Fletcher School, for example, Bhaskar Chakravorti, on Jan. 10: “Jan. 6 ought to shape the future of tech as we know it. The only way in which social media doesn’t continue to be weaponized to undermine democracy, is by rethinking this critical piece [Section 230] that gave rise to the web as it is today and is the root of many of its evils.”

Sen. Elizabeth Warren has appeared to forget that during the Presidential campaign she promised an anti-trust law to break the digital oligarchs' companies up—"Glass-Steagall for tech." They must be broken up. The President must not be silenced. At stake is American constitutional self-government.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Atlantic Council Chief Insists Trump Must Resign, Impeachment a Poor Second

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—In a CNBC op-ed Jan. 9, [Frederick Kempe](#), CEO of the Atlantic Council, appeared, speaking for the British Atlanticist intelligence establishment in saying that President Donald Trump's resignation, not his impeachment, is what is wanted. Kempe claims Democrats plan to impeach Trump on a crime of insurrection, and, "a lawyer friend tells me there's a powerful *prima facie* case ... that President Donald Trump at the very least violated federal law on insurrection and rebellion. That U.S. code reads: 'Whoever incites, sets on foot, assists, or engages in any rebellion or insurrection against the authority of the United States or the laws thereof, or gives aid or comfort thereto, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both, and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States.' "

But here the Atlantic Council joins the *Wall Street Journal* in demanding that Trump resign instead, because of NATO's immediate agenda for Joe Biden. "Biden hopes to convene a summit of democracies during his first year in office to 'get the band back together,' in the words of one of his top advisors," and impeachment would distract him, says Kempe, in part quoting the *Journal*. He doesn't have to add that this would be an anti-China, anti-Russia, essentially a NATO heads of state "emergency" summit—a disastrous parody of President Putin's five-power UN Security Council emergency summit, or the four-power "New Bretton Woods" summit which Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche has been urging for the past year.

Biden imagines that he, too, has immediate plans including that “summit of democracies,” but also a useless fifth or sixth pandemic “relief” handout bill and a big COVID vaccination drive (which in fact is already well underway). So he, too, is not happy about February being spent impeaching the President after he’s left office.

And if Kempe’s “lawyer friend” were right that Trump’s conduct fell under the law (Constitutional 14th Amendment Section 3) on insurrection, then there have been dozens and dozens of insurrections in the past few years in Congressional office buildings, federal buildings around the country, and so forth. According to this claim the Capitol somehow is “the authority of the United States” whereas those other buildings are not.

Pelosi did send a letter to the Democratic Caucus members on Jan. 10 setting Jan. 12 for impeachment and referencing the 14th Amendment among other things; but the Democrats don’t seem to know what they want to do. Her leadership colleague James Clyburn (D-SC) proposed not sending the article of impeachment to the Senate for months so as not to “distract” Biden; but other Democrats jumped to oppose a delay like that.

Republican Activist Jim Jatras Tells Iranian News of Reichstag Fire Scenario in Washington

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—James Jatras, former U.S. diplomat and advisor to the Senate Republican Leadership, gave a glimpse of the reality in Washington, D.C. in an interview with Iran’s [Tasnim News Agency](#) posted today. “The illusion of ‘democracy,’ constitution and rule of law is finally gone,” he said. “Of course this has nothing to do with phony calls of ‘racism’ but with demonization of the historic American nation and its traditions, values, and identity.” Jatras explicitly described the Jan. 6 events at the U.S. Capitol and the response to them as “as the functional equivalent” of the Reichstag Fire of 1933, which was used by the Nazis to establish their emergency rule. The fire itself was set by a Dutch anarchist, known for committing minor acts of arson, on Feb. 28, 1933, after the security the building was stripped. The subsequent *Notverordnung* allowed the Nazi government to name domestic enemies.

“After Jan. 20, it will be followed by a flurry of Executive actions and legislation (cheered on by most of the Republicans) to remove the last vestiges of what was a free country,” he explained. “The First Amendment (freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association) are only formalities now, the Second Amendment (right to bear arms, considered central to Americans’ concept of free citizenry) is in severe danger.”

The point of impeaching Trump now, Jatras went on, is not to remove him, which likely won’t happen but “to further the narrative that his followers are extremists and terrorists—not the BLM and Antifa thugs who burnt our cities with impunity this year.” Trump, he claimed, has little relevance to anything now. “Consider, here we are with our country falling apart and all he can think of on the way out is threatening Iran and designating the Houthis as terrorists,” he said, attributing to Donald Trump what should be really hung on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. “Once he leaves office, he will be un-personed by the media and threatened with legal prosecution. In my opinion he will have to leave the country, if any safe country will have him. We are entering uncharted waters.”

Another BlackRock Exec Piles into White House

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—The Biden White House looks like it’s being redesigned as a BlackRock, Inc. special purpose vehicle (SPV). A third, and this the most senior so far, BlackRock executive has been named.

Sludge reported Jan. 10: “The BlackRock figure set to join the administration with the deepest ties to both the firm, and the neoliberal economic policies it benefits from, will be [VP Kamala Harris’] top economic aide. ‘The *American Prospect* reported on Wednesday that Mike Pyle, global chief investment strategist at BlackRock and one of the original members of Fink’s ‘shadow government,’ ” will be Harris’s chief economist. The “shadow government” term refers to the period in the spring of 2016 when BlackRock CEO Larry Fink was assuming he would soon be Hillary Clinton’s Treasury Secretary, and was assigning the team to go to Treasury with him and make SPVs. Fink’s team got to do that

anyway, with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Fed chief Jerome Powell, and hundreds of billions in taxpayer funds.

Pyle worked for Peter Orszag in the Obama White House in 2009-10, shaping the Obamacare Affordable Care Act, and Pyle and Fink are both austerity hawks.

Righteous Hypocrites—Democrats First Objected to Republican Electors in 2001 Joint Session

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—U.S. Senate Democrats have objected to at least some Electoral College ballots the last three times Republican candidates have won the Presidency, while Senate Republicans have not succeeded on any challenge, Virginia Allen wrote for the [Daily Signal](#) platform on Jan. 4. Democrats objected in 2001 and 2005, when the 2000 and 2004 races were won by George W. Bush. Democrat Hillary Clinton objected in 2017 when Donald Trump won the election on Nov. 8, 2016.

In January 2001, after George W. Bush won a very narrow victory over Democratic Vice-President Al Gore, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) objected to Bush's slate of 25 electors from Florida, which were highly contested. Gore, as President of the Senate, refused to accept Waters' objection, because it was not co-signed by a Senator, as required by the Electoral Count Act of 1887. In 2005, then-Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) both objected to then-President Bush's slate of electors from Ohio. Both chambers adjourned for two hours, as required by law, to debate whether to reject those electors, but neither one did.

In 2005, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) praised Boxer. "Some may criticize our colleague from California for bringing us here for this brief debate," Durbin told the Senate. "I thank her for doing that because it gives members an opportunity once again on a bipartisan basis to look at the challenge we face not just in the last election in one state, but in many states." Another Democrat, Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) said both Boxer and Tubbs Jones had "performed a valuable public service in bringing this debate before the Congress: "As Americans, we should all be troubled by reports of voting problems in many parts of the country. I have been

particularly concerned about the lack of a verifiable paper record in connection with electronic voting systems.... It would be irresponsible to use the certification process to attempt to change the result. Doing so would establish a terrible precedent.”

Last week, Senators Van Hollen and Durbin slammed Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) when he tweeted, “Millions of voters concerned about election integrity deserve to be heard. I will object on Jan. 6 on their behalf.” The grounds were that the states unconstitutionally changed voting rules ahead of the Nov. 3 election. But Hawley also said, “I cannot vote to certify without pointing out the unprecedented effort of mega-corporations, including Facebook and Twitter, to interfere with the election, in support of Joe Biden.”

Van Hollen tweeted, “Sen. Hawley’s actions are grossly irresponsible. He’s attempting to undermine our democratic process, fuel Trump’s lies about voter fraud, and delay the certification of Biden’s win. In the end, this reckless stunt will fail, and Joe Biden will become President on Jan. 20, 2021.” Senator Durbin threw in that Hawley’s objection was “the political equivalent of barking at the Moon. This won’t be taken seriously, nor should it be. The American people made a decision on November 3rd, and that decision must and will be honored and protected by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.”

COVID-19

Brazil To Open Manufacturing Facility Next Week for Sputnik V Vaccine

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—RT reports that “Brazil will be the next country—after India, China, and South Korea—to produce Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine against the coronavirus. The production lines will start operating later this week.” A statement from the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which financed the vaccine’s development, was released on Jan. 11: “Brazil will start production of Sputnik V on Jan. 15.”

“Brazil’s União Química pharmaceutical firm has received the necessary cellular material from Russia’s Gamaleya Institute, and will begin manufacturing at plants in Brasilia and in Guarulhos. Brazil has over 8 million official cases of COVID-19 and over 200,000 deaths. Use of the Sputnik V vaccine is already underway in Argentina, Bolivia, Serbia and Belarus. On Jan. 10, Algeria became the first African country to approve Sputnik V,” reported RT.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

U.S. Mass Unemployment Is Increasing Again; Informal Jobs Have Been Blasted

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—Lost in the political crisis on Jan. 8 was a Labor Department report that U.S. employment had declined—140,000 in December—actually, leaving aside the absurdity of “seasonal adjustments” in this mass unemployment situation, by -330,000. This was the first reported decline since the massive employment collapse in April. Unemployment claims reported Jan. 7 only added to the picture: 19,700,000 Americans were getting some unemployment benefits in the week ended Dec. 26, and in the next week to Jan. 2, some 922,000 more filed new claims, the highest weekly number in months.

Total American employment is 9.2 million lower than December 2019 and that gap is growing again. The civilian labor force itself has shrunk by 4 million in a year because 4.9 million eligible workers now have not looked for work in more than a year. These 4.9 million should be added to the 19.1 million who are either officially unemployed, “discouraged/marginally attached” to the workforce, or forced to work part-time; so real unemployment/underemployment is a 24 million, 15% of the workforce.

Most striking is the fact that this new mass unemployment is almost entirely in the categories of contract and “gig” jobs, micro-businesses and other of what—were the United States an underdeveloped country—would be called the “informal sector of the economy”; these are overwhelmingly

workers who were not productively employed before they lost their work. Compared to the -9.2 million drop in total employment in the past year, goods-producing employment is “only” down by -750,000.

Though the COVID pandemic will decline, these “informal sector” unemployed are, in huge numbers, not going to be rehired for a long time. Their prospect for the future is the same as that of the country and requires a political mobilization: new infrastructure and new scientific, energy and technological crash programs, funded by a Hamiltonian credit institution working in cooperation with those of other major high-technology nations. *EIR*'s special report “[The World Needs 1.5 Billion New Productive Jobs](#)” was a recognition of this already in May 2020, and specified how to do it, including modern public health systems for all countries, and U.S.-Mexico-China collaboration to build new infrastructure in Central America and Mexico—what was called then the North American Belt and Road Initiative.

European Power System Affected by German March into ‘Renewables’

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—Not just Germany is facing difficulties to secure its industrial status after the exit from nuclear power scheduled for the end of 2022; all of Europe will suffer because of the uncertainty of where the leading European industrial power will get its supplies of electricity in the future.

The problems in Germany caused by the renewables drive have already begun to show: The past year has seen a 15% decrease of CO2 emissions, but not because of the increase of electricity supplies coming from solar and wind power. As Fabian Hein of the Agora Energiewende, a leading institution of the energy transformation strategy, is complaining, the emissions decrease occurred because of the shutdown of large parts of industry last year related to the pandemic. In other words, the fact that 2020 has been the first year in which the total output from solar and wind has surpassed oil, coal and gas combined, shows that the green strategy which

claims that Germany would do well if entirely relying on renewables is failing.

This is furthermore documented by the fact that not only did Germany's electricity exports shrink by 11.6% in 2020, but also that it had to import 38.8% more from European neighbors because its own power generation was insufficient. Imports were 24.2 Twh in 2019, and already 33.6 Twh in 2020—a trend that is certain to grow, and increase that growth as of January 2022 when three of the remaining six nuclear power reactors are shut off by the nuclear exit plan.

Furthermore, this past summer, France was unable to export enough electricity to its neighbor Germany—the major foreign client of French nuclear power—but was itself forced to import from Spain, which in turn had to import from Morocco. This shows there are definite limits to what the European Energy Supply Chain, which regulates internal European exports and imports for its member nations, can do to keep Germany's industry going.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

World Bank Sees Divided World in Pandemic, Africa Income Falls by 'a Decade'

Jan. 11 (EIRNS)—The World Bank released its Global Economic Prospects 2021 report last week, picking winners and losers for the coming year. Colored by the COVID-19 pandemic, their global outlook for the coming year is a depressing 4% growth rate (down from 9%), but not all areas of the world share evenly in that smaller pie. Asia comes out far ahead, with Africa falling far behind.

From the executive summary: “Following a collapse last year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic output is expected to expand 4% in 2021 but still remain more than 5% below pre-pandemic projections. The impact of the pandemic “is expected to erode growth prospects in emerging market and developing economies and set back key development goals,” they say, while in the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa,

“per-capita income shrank by 6.1% in 2020, setting average living standards back by at least a decade.”

In the best-case scenario, “The East Asia and Pacific region is envisioned to show notable strength in 2021 due to a solid rebound in China, whereas activity is projected to be weakest in the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions.” But in the case of “a more severe and prolonged pandemic, growth would be lowest among Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa.”

The U.S. and Europe are just as much in this picture, as it is they who are waiting for the calls for goods and services to stir the demand for increasing their own domestic employment. Of course, this gloomy picture—what they call a “decade of disappointments”—does not have to be the case. With a reformed credit system, based on a “win-win” Bretton Woods principle, international finance could be made functional once again, allowing both the developed and developing nations of the world to advance.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday, January 12, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing on what you need to know to start your day.