The Republican Party's March To Ignominy © Joel Goodman 2017

As Dorothy astutely observed in The Wizard of Oz, "We're not in Kansas anymore." And, allegorically speaking, neither are we.

Whether or not any or all of the women accusing politicians of sexual misconduct, inappropriate behavior or harassment are being truthful or deceitful, we must now understand that we are in the age of the accuser and of electronic media witch trials; and should be reminded that 25 died before the "Salem" trials were finally stopped - and, today many innocents will suffer along with the guilty before this current manic episode is allowed to stop.

And, whether or not Roy Moore was a terribly flawed candidate because his views about Homosexuality and Muslim participation in government are out of step with a growing percentage of Americans, the reality is - had he won the election - once in Congress and actually been found guilty of the actions of which he was accused, he could then have been cashiered out of office and replaced by another Republican; or on the other hand, even if the accusations were proven to be baseless, as he claimed, his voice on social issues and on other uncomfortable positions he holds would have been blunted by the legislative process and a lack of opportunistic legislation that would have given him a platform upon which to enunciate his point of view. He wouldn't have been the first Senator to have some out of step ideas. Certainly, he's no closer to the political loony bin than many currently serving Democrats.

But, Moore's outlook on life is not the aspect of his defeat that should be looked at more closely. It is an old axiom that says, "Politics makes for strange bedfellows." And, this is a time when the Republicans, much like the Democrats, need to accept as many strange bedfellows as needed to get their agenda passed.

And, accepting the fact that politics is a strange business, the attacks and resulting defeat of Judge Moore is much more telling of the ways of the Republicans than it is of the tactics the Democrats used against him, or of Moore himself. In fact, it could be said that Moore's

defeat was due more to the Republicans attacking him than to the Democrats attacking him. This is said without discounting the observation that the Democrats' smear campaign had the desired effect of creating doubt about the morality of an otherwise moral candidate - Moore's personal integrity being one of his most important campaign assets.

The Republican Establishment's behavior in Alabama is what this election was ultimately all about.

The Republicans' lack of a commitment to maintaining power and standing on a strong philosophical base, is not an isolated event. The Republican Establishment attacked Goldwater in 1964, and while maybe not preventing him from winning a tough election against the heir apparent to JFK, the attacks most certainly accounted for the size of his electoral defeat, which at the time did great damage to the Conservative movement. This disdain for principled politicians, especially Conservatives, is indicative of what many have come to understand - that the Republicans are a conglomerate of un-philosophical corporatists, whose raison d' être and modus operandi is that of a large business oriented group of political hacks, who, apart from enunciated support for certain trigger issues, in many ways are indistinguishable from the Democrats; and not unsurprisingly, more comfortable working in the shadows as a minority, which conveniently affords the advantage of obfuscating their lack of cohesion and dedication to a philosophy.

Working as the minority, the party bosses are still able to get what they need for their large benefactors, who, far too often, are the same people who keep many of the Democrats in power. Behind the scenes, they cut the same deals as the Democrat hacks. In any event, the interests of the average individual Republican voter are never quite achieved.

It is by now clear that if the "meatless meat sandwich," known as the Russia probe, yields no usable impeachment material, then the tactics of the Democrat Party going forward towards the 2020 national elections will continue to segue to the politics of sexual impropriety, with the stated goal of demanding Trumps' resignation or impeachment.

And yet, while the Sex tactics used by the Democrats may yield some scattered electoral benefit, there is much more going on here.

The larger over-arching goal of the Democrats, the Republican Establishment, and of the Deep State / Shadow Government / Washington Elites - call them what you will - is the defeat of Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential election; even quite possibly his defeat in the Republican presidential primaries.

The recent attacks based on admitted to sexual misconduct, in which the Democrats have been willing to eat their own, is only part of a longer term strategy to "get" President Trump. But, regardless of Moore's defeat, it is not a viable path that will lead to impeachment. In fact, the recent Articles of Impeachment that yielded 58 Democrat Yeas in the House, is quite laughable. One of the counts of the indictment is Trump calling some of the NFL payers 'Sons of Bitches." While in certain parts of the country, the phrase may conjure up some relationship to one's maternal parent, in Trump's New York it is hardly more than calling someone a slime bag. Considering that as early as the First Congress Elbridge Gerry practically called James Madison a rat on the floor of the House, and more recently Vice President Chaney told a Senator "go fuck yourself," and Trump himself has been called everything from racist to Hitler, to moron, to killer, and other derogatory names ad infinitum, this sudden outrage appears to be somewhat disingenuous. In essence, the Articles are a crybaby's list of political complaints. Still, it has a purpose.

That purpose is to lay the groundwork for the average voter to begin to question Trump's lack of integrity and ability in each and every area of his being as it relates to the Presidency.

In theory, it would be Constitutionally possible to remove a President for spitting on the sidewalk. All that is necessary is for the House to pass Articles of Impeachment and for two thirds of the Senate to vote to condemn the President.

There is no higher legal body in the United States when it comes to impeachment. The Supreme Court has no standing, and the Court's only involvement in impeaching a President is the Constitutional requirement that the Chief Justice sit as the Judge in the Impeachment Tribunal. Therefore, short of an armed insurrection by those who supported a beleaguered President and loved this country, an out of control Congress could do what it wanted when it comes to impeachment.

But, impeachment is a messy affair, and unless one is truly prepared to look into the void, it is something best discussed - but not practiced.

In the recent Alabama special senatorial election, the Republicans showed a brazen lack of concern for their slim majority in the Senate. Senior Alabama Republican Senator Richard Shelby, who has been in elected office for 47 years, voiced such vehement opposition to Moore that his remarks were used in almost every Democrat television ad run during the last days of the election.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch <u>McConnell said</u> that if Moore were to win, the Senate would immediately begin the process of trying to expel him. Many other Republican Establishment Congressmen weighed in, including vocal Senators like John McCain and Bob Corker. Demonstrating the breadth of the willingness to torpedo Moore's candidacy, National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman Cory Gardner clearly stated that the Senate should expel Moore if he should win. To underscore his genius for tactics, <u>Gardner has now asked Senator-elect Doug Jones to support the Republican agenda</u>.

One would think that an all out assault against a Republican candidate by members of a Party holding on to a Senate majority by a hair's breadth is inconceivable - but, for a Party whose only agenda consists of occasional statements on a few "highly politicized" non-issue issues - it is understandable.

This willingness to sacrifice their majority position in the Senate is reflective of a significant problem in American politics, the lack of a true philosophical bent in either of the two main Parties, but much more lacking among Republicans. The Democrats at least have Das

Kapital and Mao's Little Red Book from which to quote. The sex scandal beheadings have highlighted the fact that American politics and political news coverage has for some time been based almost solely on the sensational aspects of any particular issue.

For example, when debating the "gun issue", rarely if ever is the basis for the Second Amendment, the Militia, ever enunciated. The Republicans base almost the entirety of their support for guns on the ability of the "law abiding" citizen to defend himself and his family. As for the Democrats, they wait in ambush every time there is a mass shooting, eager to use the still warm dead bodies as fodder for their barrage against the harm that guns do. Conversely, when discussing immigration, the Republicans almost exclusively discuss the physical harm that Latin gang members commit. To wit, the continual use of the Kate Steinle shooting as the appeal for immigration reform. They never get to the historically relevant issue of protecting American republican culture. The Democrats in turn open the tear spigots and speak of the millions of "undocumented immigrants" that have been in the United States for years and are now in danger of being deported, completely sidestepping their status as illegal aliens.

From national defence to taxes, to immigration to medical care, it is the politics of histrionics and hyperbole and the ten second sound bite.

In the recent special election in Alabama, both the Left and the Right portrayed Moore as being out of control. To the contrary, Moore was very much in control; but to the Establishment's chagrin, very uncontrollable. This was his political sin - the potential to be an uncontrollable Senator who, rightly or wrongly, would deal with issues from a citizen's point of view.

The media created impression of Moore, is very much akin to the impression that the media has created of Trump. Trump is portrayed as being out of control, when in fact he is very much in control; but again, like Moore, his is largely uncontrollable. Whatever Trump is, he is not the typical bought and paid for politician. The Democrat opposition is building its case against Trump on the basis of Trump being out of control and emotionally and mentally unstable. Towards that end, everything he does is weighed against a standard

that accepts everything the Democrats do and want done as being normal, and all else being aberrant. This is clearly reflected in the recent Articles of Impeachment.

The split between the Republican Party Establishment hacks and Trump was evidenced in the waning days of the Alabama campaign. Even though Trump supported Luther Strange in the Alabama Republican primary contest, <u>he shifted his support to Moore</u> in the general election because he didn't want to lose the Senate seat, especially one filled by a Senator who promised to support his agenda.

The Establishment Republicans, who have refused to warm to Trump's agenda, willingly did to one of their own what the Democrats were willing to do to their own, sacrifice him to the court of public opinion. Whereas the Democrat Congressmen admitted their offences, Moore's detractors accepted as gospel, thus far un-admitted to, non-adjudicated, unproved and questionable accusations as the justification for their disapproval of Moore as a candidate. And, whereas both John Conyers' and Al Franken's seats are safe Democrat seats, and Democrats will never campaign against another Democrat when a seat is in danger of being lost, the Republicans openly showed that they were willing to sacrifice Moore's seat to a Democrat. The Republican leaders have now established a precedent for sacrificing the seat of an uncontrollable politician. The obvious question then is - how far will the Republicans go in working towards Trump's defeat in 2020 - based solely on the accusations being made against him?

Moore's defeat, and the campaign the Republican Establishment launched against him, represents the past, the present and the future of the Republican Party. Republican leadership has already sidelined the Tea Party and their Freedom caucus in the Congress. These are the same players who vehemently attacked Trump during the 2016 election, and even though they control Congress, they refused to follow up on campaign pledges to repeal Obama Care, one of Trump's most defining campaign promises. The Congress is dragging its feet on almost all of Trump's agenda, and what they are giving him is watered down and skewed towards their benefactors' interests.

They know full well that if Trump can't move his agenda forward, even his base might question his Presidential ability. Again, the goal here is quite obvious, Trump's defeat in 2020.

Putting aside Democrat driven media talking points, it will not be necessary to have Trump resign or removed from office to deter him. Preventing Trump from being reelected is enough for the Republicans, as they drag their feet on implementing his agenda and allow the Democrats to position themselves for a possible 2020 electoral victory.

To defeat Trump, it might only be necessary to sway those voters who are not among his hard core supporters by continuously presenting the message that Trump is an out of control wild man, and a potential danger to both the country and the world, and someone who lacks the ability to lead from the White House.

It would appear that as long as it is anyone but Trump who wins in 2020, the Washington Establishment will be able to return to business as usual. As we have already seen, if getting rid of Trump in 2020 means that the Republicans might have to lose the Presidency, and maybe lose control of the Senate, their recent actions indicate that they would be perfectly content to return to a minority status. There appears to be no sacrifice too great, as long as the Establishment could put an end to the political 'populist' momentum associated with Trump's victory.

For the average American, the only difference between a Democrat winning the presidency in 2020 or a Republican winning is that a Democrat, regardless of the makeup of the Congress, will give away the country somewhat more quickly - but the selling out of America as it relates to the two Parties is only a matter of degree.