

A Deep State of Affairs *or The Flywheel*

(July 2024)

Deep State: ominous words, adorned with secrecy, and a touch of conspiratorial evil.

There seems to be a reluctance to keep simple things simple and complex things complex, and a penchant for making complex things simple and simple things complex.

In the United States, there are 542 elected federal offices, which consist of one President, one Vice-President (although elected on the same ballot), 435 House Representatives, five delegates for the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the overseas territories, and 100 Senators.

As for the conduct of governmental affairs, it requires nearly two and a half million civil servants and as many military, for a total of five million employees on the Government's payroll, or nearly 10,000 for each elected federal office.

Most are subject to the Executive Branch and thus only have one single Elected Chief: the President.

Which is a lot of foot soldiers for just one general.

On the other hand, it so happens that the five million civil and military federal servants amount to a little more than the combined hirelings of the world's three largest private employers worldwide (Walmart, Amazon, and Foxxcon).

However, whereas in a private firm employees have a choice only between the Autocrat's Way and the Highway, since private firms are the property of unelected private individuals, a government is not the property of its few elected executives and hoping for the undivided loyalty of millions of career employees to a Supreme Manager who is replaced every four years by another is perhaps a bit of wishful thinking.

What should be naturally expected from those armies of Federal Subjects is sometimes good professionalism, sometimes deep inertia, or differing understanding, or lack thereof, or even sometimes willful malice, or great energy, or plain ennui, your choice, since people are only people.

Since these employees have all pledged Allegiance to the Flag, rather than to the Lone Chief, there is little recourse against this deep state of affairs, except for firing each and

every civil and military servant every four years and hiring new personnel after careful ideological scrutiny, and then have them pledge allegiance not to the Constitution, but to the Boss.

In the United States presidential appointments are confirmed by the Senate, which is on the political side of the Executive only episodically. Therefore, to ensure efficiency a constitutional amendment should first be introduced to eliminate the separation of powers between the Branches of Government.

Then, considering the tedium of the current Senate confirmation process for the one thousand or so positions filled by presidential appointment, one should reflect on the number of Senators required to confirm five thousand times as many positions.

Assuming a current overall confirmation time of one year, which is a tad optimistic, it would take five thousand years to confirm five million positions every four years, an arithmetically challenging problem.

A solution would be to increase the number of Senators from 100 to 500,000 (half a million).

Then, to elicit some interest for federal employment, given how short lived such employment would be, you would have to radically increase civil and military service salaries, perhaps ten-fold or more, from the current \$71,265 to perhaps \$1,000,000 (one million), representing an annual expenditure of \$5 trillion, or one fifth of GDP, or more than \$200,000 per household (add 1.75% for the extra Senators).

Keeping in mind that no federal employee, civil or military, would have more than four (sometimes eight) years of experience on the job. That would include officers of the general staff.

Another fix would be to turn the Republic into a harsh dictatorship for life and send any recalcitrant federal employee to the firing squad.

If you think the above-described solutions are a bit far-fetched or unrealistic, don't expect any time soon some Shallow State to substitute for the Deep State.

Five million deep.¹

¹ The Deep State of Affairs could also reveal beneficial side effects, despite unavoidable localized abuses, in that it can be seen as some sort of stabilizing flywheel in which sheer inertia facilitates the smooth and hiccup-free running of the Federal Machine while preventing the intermittent majority from abusing the intermittent minority, a chief concern of the Founding Fathers.