

# Your Opinion Doesn't Matter

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POITOU, FRANCE – While Hurricane Irma whips up some of the strongest winds ever recorded, the fury of the storm b  
over Washington is intensifying, too.

“For Conservatives, Trump’s Deal With Democrats Is Nightmare Come True,” reports *The New York Times*.

As expected, President Trump’s economic team – led by lifelong Democrats and Goldman alum Steve Mnuchin and Ga  
has made a deal with Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer.

## Chopped Liver

The Deep State needs to raise the debt ceiling, almost immediately.

Conservative members of Congress are reluctant to go along – not without assurances that spending and borrowing wi  
brought under control. So the Trump debt pushers turned to their natural allies – the Democrats – to get the votes they

We don’t need to tell you that Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi are not getting on bo  
to enjoy the ride.

They know where they want to go. They have cronies to pay off. And zombies to protect.

That is, they have their own win-lose deals to make.

But a deal with the liberal Dems threatens the barely coherent solidarity of the Republican Party. “What about us?” ask  
conservatives. “What are we, chopped liver?”

## GOP Schism

And if there’s a schism between the traditional, conservative wing of the GOP and the White House, what’s left of the T  
program?

His “America First” foreign policy has already been ditched. So has any hope of cutting entitlements.

As for the other departments and agencies of the federal government, no knows what is going on, including the people  
them.

The only thing still on the table, as of yesterday morning, was tax reform.

And now, that’s gone, too. It’s difficult to pull off major tax changes, even with solid support in Congress; there are so m  
contradictory special interests to reconcile. And without strong party discipline, it is impossible to build the kind of delica  
consensus you need to reform the complicated tax system.

But all that is well-rehearsed in the mainstream press. Here, for example, is *The New York Times* on the subject:

It is the scenario that President Trump’s most conservative followers considered their worst nightmare, and on Wed  
seemed to come true: The dealmaking political novice, whose ideology and loyalty were always fungible, cut a deal  
Democrats.

If Mr. Trump’s agreement with the two Democratic leaders, Senator Chuck Schumer and Representative Nancy Pel  
increase the debt limit and finance the government for three months did not yet represent the breaking point between  
president and his core, hard-right base of support, it certainly put him closer than he has ever been to tipping his fra  
political coalition into open revolt.

And here's CNN:

"Now nothing will get done between now and Dec. 15," one Republican aide told CNN in an email. "You think people are waiting for a budget now?"

## **Degenerate Empire**

You can find that news on TV. And in the newspapers.

Here at the *Diary*, though, it is just prelude. Here, we aim to connect bigger dots.

Of interest to us is not the low, day-to-day comedy in Washington, but what it means:

It doesn't matter what Trump thinks. It doesn't matter what we think. It doesn't matter who you vote for. It doesn't matter if a colossal crash is visible or not. Now underway is the train of history; it ain't gonna stop for no.

You can choose your own date, but we take 1917 as the date the wheels really began to turn.

Exactly 100 years ago, U.S. troops arrived in Europe – at the rate of 10,000 a day – to take part in a fight in which they

That – along with the Spanish-American War and the "Revolution of 1913" (Federal Reserve... income tax... direct election of Senators) – marked the transformation of the Old American Republic into the new U.S. Empire.

An empire is not the same as a republic. As an empire grows and matures, everything within it bends and warps.

The words and forms remain the same. So do the myths and delusions of the earlier era.

People still think voting matters, for example, even though the real power has moved from the many in the electorate to the few in the Deep State.

## **Irrelevant Legislature**

In ancient Rome, the Senate and popular assemblies ruled for hundreds of years. They considered the issues gravely and discussed the matters before them earnestly, guiding the Republic through wars, famines, and rebellions.

Then, after Augustus, real power moved to the executive. The republic was replaced with an empire. No one admitted it until Augustus himself.

Instead of calling himself a "dictator" or an "emperor," Augustus made a show of handing power to the Senate and calling himself the "first citizen."

But the change was unrelenting. The assemblies were gradually disbanded and the Senate was used as a rubber stamp for whatever fool shenanigans emperors got up to.

Many are the changes – to government, society, public institutions, and the economy – taking place in America, too. To focus on just one of them: the emasculation of the legislature.

What we are seeing now is the twisting of Congress... into a grotesque shape more in keeping with its real function. It cannot debate the issues meaningfully. It cannot legislate in a reasonable way. It cannot meet the challenges that come its way.

As the empire evolves, its affairs become too complicated... too far-flung... too detailed for the people's representatives. They can't be experts in everything, and they have no time to read anything – even the laws they pass.

Thus the legislature becomes more and more irrelevant. The insiders – led by the Goldman and the Gunmen – take over

## **Carnival of Claptrap**

On Tuesday, President Trump tossed a grenade into Congress. It should have been fairly easy for the people's representatives to bat it back out to the White House.

With a combined 8,000 years of legislative experience, members of the two houses could easily craft a law to end the uncertain status of some 800,000 "Dreamers" – children who immigrated to the U.S. illegally and were given the temporary right to live in the U.S. by President Obama.

In or out; it doesn't have to be complicated. In a matter of hours, they could have had a bill on the president's desk for signature.

Instead, they fumble... they tumble over one another in silly grandstanding... and mumble incoherent and irrelevant comments. And then, it explodes in their faces.

The day is long past when Congress could sensibly consider any important legislative issue.

Congress has become little more than a national windbag... a carnival of claptrap full of clowns and grifters, each with only one real objective: to get re-elected.

And now, it is just a matter of time.

How long will it be before a U.S. Caligula names his horse as his ambassador to the UN... or turns the White House into a cat house?

Regards,

Bill