

11.14.2022 SHOW NOTES:

TRUMP, THE GOP and the 'Trap' in which We Fiddle

INSIDER

Rush Limbaugh's big concession: 'Are you admitting Trump is not a conservative? Damn right I am!'

[Oliver Darcy](#)

Sep 16, 2016, 1:58 PM

Rush Limbaugh conceded on Thursday that he does not believe Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for president, is a conservative.

The king of talk radio made the admission while discussing Trump's child care and maternity leave proposals, which have been skewered by many on the right who have characterized it as another government entitlement program.

"Can somebody point to me the conservative on the ballot?" Limbaugh asked on his radio show, [according to a transcript posted to his official website](#). "What do you mean, Rush? Are you admitting Trump is not a conservative?' ***Damn right I am!***"

He continued: "Folks, when did I ever say that he was? Look, I don't know how to tell you this. **Conservatism lost, in the primary, if that's how you want to look at it.** We had [Ted] Cruz; we had [Marco] Rubio."

Limbaugh said that he still wanted to see an authentic conservative win the Republican nomination for president and ultimately the White House.

"I wish it would happen," he said. "I've wished it would happen for 25 years."

The radio talk show host concluded his segment: **"I wish conservatism was on the ballot."**

Limbaugh is one of many members of the conservative press who has [come under fire](#) throughout 2016 from members of the Never Trump movement, who allege the pundit helped fuel the rise of Trump. Critics have said Limbaugh and his allies

in conservative media did not sufficiently express during the primaries that the now GOP nominee did not hold conservative views on many issues.

[NPR](#)

[Trump Is No Conservative, Says Conservative Pundit Glenn Beck](#)

NPR Staff August 22, 2015 8:49 AM ET

The rise of Donald Trump as a Republican presidential candidate has surprised many pundits, but not conservative commentator Glenn Beck.

Trump has widened his lead over other Republican presidential candidates in public opinion polls. Other non-professional politicians, including Dr. Ben Carson, a brain surgeon, and Carly Fiorina, the former head of Hewlett-Packard, have also shot ahead of politicians in the polls.

Beck, the broadcaster and author, is considered one of the most influential — and loudest — voices in American conservatism. Formerly with Fox News, Beck now hosts a daily radio program and founder of The Blaze, a cable and Internet network. His most recent book is *It Is About Islam*.

But Beck tells NPR's Scott Simon that he doesn't support Trump, and doesn't think he is a true conservative.

"It's hard to say you espouse conservative principals and small-government principals when you are saying that you think [the] Canadian health care system works and is wonderful," he says.

Interview Highlights

On Trump's appeal

He is not a politician. He is saying the populist things right now. I think what's happening with Bernie Sanders with the left is the same thing that's happening with Donald Trump, and that is ... they want somebody just to say it the way they think it — especially if they say it in a non-politically correct way.

On whether Trump is conservative

I don't think he is; I haven't heard him talk about the Constitution or small government. It's hard to say you espouse conservative principals and small-government principals when you are saying that you think [the] Canadian health care system works and is wonderful.

On Trump's high approval ratings among conservative talk radio listeners

I have lots of listeners who say I'm wrong on this, but that's OK ...

But that's OK, I speak my mind and my opinion is my opinion. Nothing more and nothing less.

I look for a man of integrity, humility, who is rooted in the Constitution. Because if you root yourself in the Constitution, we can't go too far left and we can't go too far right. We are held by principles we all used to declare we found self evident.

On the state of American politics

This is saying something, coming from Glenn Beck, I think, for a lot of people who view Glenn Beck as the clown or the monkey on TV, but we have a real, serious issue with civility. As long as we're civil, I think debate, vigorous debate, is good for everyone.

NATIONAL REVIEW

It's Not My Party

By [Andrew C. McCarthy](#) July 23, 2016 8:00 AM

Donald Trump has completed the gutting of a principled Republican party that began in the Bush years.

You reap what you sow. For a generation since Ronald Reagan left Washington — that would be the Ronald Reagan who knew that “I’m from the government and I’m here to help” was a punch line — the “conservative” Republican party has sown an incoherent statism that has trouble telling the good guys from the bad guys. On Thursday night came the harvest: The party was formally taken over by an incoherent statist whose “conservatism” is not done justice by scare quotes. Oh . . . and he has trouble telling the good guys from the bad guys.

Of course, you wouldn’t get that from his acceptance speech. **Donald Trump doesn’t know much, but he has a genius for self-promotion and marketing.** The conservative intellectuals and Washington political class so dismissive of his bravura 72-minute performance for its high-decibel staccato and occasional rambling repetitiveness are missing the point, as they have throughout Trump’s ascent.

From 30,000 feet, which is as close as most Americans get to government policy in all its intricacies, Trump gave a great speech. If you knew nothing of Trump, if your only impression was the Donald bestriding the Manichaean world he portrayed Thursday night, you *wanted* to be with him.

He’s with the cops against the thugs who shoot them down. He’s with peace-loving Americans (and don’t forget the “Q” after “LGBT”) against the barbaric Islamic terrorists who besiege them. He’s with wall-deprived communities preyed upon by illegal aliens. He’s now with the upright American middle class screwed over by the cabal of Beltway insiders and crony capitalists (of which he was, until moments ago, a member in good standing). He is the embodiment of law and order, pitted against Hillary Clinton, a recidivist felon in the court of public opinion — one the throng in Cleveland wants “locked up,” pronto.

You can see why it would drive an informed person nuts. But a note to all eggheads: Save your dissertation on why free trade does not actually undermine the dignity of work. Forget the stubborn facts that manufacturing is thriving in America, that a trade war with China is a moronic idea, and that Trump has forsworn any action on the entitlement spending that drives the ruinous \$19 trillion national debt he decries. And don't dare mention the bombshell Trump conveniently omitted in his stemwinder: his commitment to give legal status (pssst— that means *amnesty*) to millions of the illegal aliens he risibly promises to deport.

As every demagogue from Huey Long to Saul Alinsky to Barack Obama knows, what the masses want is a villain to seize on. There's a right side and a wrong side, good and evil. Trump gets that the power of caricature triumphs over fact and complexity in modern America. Just ask "Lyin' Ted."

Trump's speech was a paean to centralized power — which, personified by Trump, would become larger-than-life government.

That's why "Crooked Hillary" ought to be nervous. Trump is more ill-suited for the presidency than anyone who has ever sought it . . . with the exception of Mrs. Clinton herself. She is an atrocious enough candidate that she could forfeit the Democrats' electoral-map advantages, just as she managed to lose a shoo-in primary contest in 2008 and nearly botched her coronation this time around. Trump could very well win.

That ought to make the rest of us nervous. And no, the specter is made no less nerve-wracking by the patent unfitness of the former secretary of state — who, as I argue in the current issue of *National Review*, ought to be impeached now, before she can darken the Oval Office doorstep.

Trump's speech was a paean to centralized power — which, personified by Trump, would become larger-than-life government. As sloganeering, "Make America Great Again" may not be quite as bold as Obama's "hope and change," which was to have healed the earth and lowered the sea levels by now. But Trump vows to end ISIS, violent crime, illegal immigration, bad trade deals, and (of course) wasteful government spending — all, evidently, in the first days of his administration. He will do all this and more by flexing Leviathan's muscles.

If you were waiting for Trump to champion individual liberty and limits on state power, you waited in vain — except for a couple of throw-away lines about preserving the Second Amendment and free-speech rights . . . which were impressive only if you were unfamiliar with Trump's history of support for President Clinton's ban on "assault weapons" and for looser libel laws that would make it easier for him to sue his legions of detractors.

#share#Trump's fury at radical Islam was not limited to ISIS. He inveighed that Egypt, with an assist from Mrs. Clinton, had been "turned over to the radical Muslim Brotherhood, forcing the military to retake control." Unbeknownst to the adoring throng, Trump had no idea what he was talking about.

Just a day before, [in an interview with the New York Times](#), Trump effusively praised Turkey's radical-Islamic strongman, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for putting down an attempted coup d'état. The military uprising aimed to thwart Erdogan's sharia authoritarianism and restore the secular society guaranteed by the country's constitution. In defeating the putsch, he heavily relied on his Muslim Brotherhood allies, who led the pro-government resistance on the streets.

In sum, Turkey was a replay of Egypt, and Trump played it exactly as Clinton did: backing the Islamic supremacists. **It is really no surprise in light of Trump's long history of donating heavily to Clinton, praising her performance as secretary of state, and opining that she'd make a stellar president.** Meanwhile, he told the *Times* that he hopes to get lots of help from Erdogan in confronting ISIS. Apparently, Trump is unaware that ISIS would not be ISIS were it not for Erdogan's support.

I will never be able to say I want him to win — only that I'm certain I want Hillary Clinton to lose.

It bears remembering here that the Republican administration of George W. Bush was the first to embrace Erdogan, sticking by him as he re-Islamized Turkey and brutally suppressed dissent. Those were the heady days of "Islamic democracy" promotion when Republicans assured us that sharia and freedom were perfectly compatible. And now, as Trump blows kisses at the rapacious Vladimir Putin and signals to the *Times* that he is ready to abandon our nation's NATO treaty obligation to defend the Baltics from Russian aggression, it similarly bears remembering that

it was Bush who first proclaimed Putin trustworthy — a [strategic partner](#) — upon gazing into his eyes and examining his soul.

For these post-Reagan Republicans, *conservative* was passé. They needed to be “compassionate conservatives,” as if there were something vaguely inhumane about the liberty enterprise. Government was no longer the “necessary evil” envisioned by the Framers, the butt of the Gipper’s aforementioned quip. It was our beneficent guardian who “[has got to move](#)” whenever “somebody hurts.” **These Republicans doubled the national debt before Obama came along to double it again.** The new and improved GOP swelled the size and scope of government; created new entitlements even as the existing ones were bankrupting us; enacted “campaign-finance reform” well aware that it flouted the First Amendment; and derided their own base as racist xenophobes for resisting amnesty for illegal aliens. And was there any Obama overreach that they weren’t happy to foot the bill for?

#related#Take away the conservatism, the limited-government constitutionalism, the devotion to liberty, the fiscal discipline, the clear-eyed recognition of America’s enemies, and what are you left with? A Republican party whose only real boast is that it can do statism with more adult moderation than the hard Left that has captured the Democratic party. To the extent that, a generation ago, “Republican” was fairly thought synonymous with “conservative,” it thus became a party “Republican” in name only — a party in which all principles were negotiable.

That made it a party ripe to be taken over by Donald Trump. But what is now officially Trump’s party has not been my party for quite some time.

It is a comfort that Trump will have some solid people around him, but the truth remains that he is uninformed on many topics, ill-informed on others, untrustworthy, and pathologically vindictive. I will never be able to say I want him to win — only that I’m certain I want Hillary Clinton to lose.

Whoever wins, I know that come January, I will be in the conservative opposition to a statist administration, and in search of a new party to call home.

THE NATIONAL INTEREST

Trump and the Discrediting of American Conservatism

It is ironic that that liberal Democrats have joined in with the criticism of Trump for not being conservative enough—at least implicitly.

by [Peter Harris](#) December 15, 2019

The presidency of Donald Trump has been an abject failure. Aside from a deficit-busting tax cut, Trump has enjoyed no major triumphs in domestic policy. His signature foreign policy initiatives—the trade war with China, denuclearization talks with North Korea, promises of a military withdrawal from the Middle East—have so far failed to bear fruit. Advisers speak badly of the administration’s inner workings and not once has the president enjoyed the approval of most Americans. And, of course, Trump is facing the ignominious prospect of becoming only the third president in U.S. history to be impeached.

People disagree over why Trump has failed as a leader. Is the president temperamentally unfit for office? Is he irredeemably corrupt? Does he listen to the wrong advisers—or no advisers at all? Has his administration been stymied by a villainous “deep state” or undercut by obstructionist legislators? Is America ungovernable?

How analysts account for Trump’s failures has much to do with their political leanings. But there is one explanation that garners a surprising amount of support across the political aisle: the idea that Trump is a poor president because he isn’t conservative enough. Yet while this is a popular diagnosis, it might not redound to the benefit of conservatives and conservatism as it probably should. The problem is that, even if people agree that Trump has failed because he has abandoned (small “c”) conservative values, conservatives themselves cannot easily make these claims because of their weddedness to Trump.

Conservatism, of course, is a contested set of ideas. It is not so much an ideology as a sensibility. But there is a core to the American tradition of conservatism that can probably be identified: respect for custom, tradition, and established institutions; a belief that incremental change is preferable to radicalism and iconoclasm; support for economic liberty; deference to established elites and a

distrust of unrestricted democracy; respect for individualism; a strictly originalist interpretation of the U.S. Constitution; strong national defense; and an uncompromising belief in American exceptionalism.

Trump has managed to trample upon all these conservative values in just three short years. The president is an iconoclast who has little respect for any established traditions that do not serve his immediate interests. He has undermined the country's democratic institutions, including numerous high-profile attacks on the free press. He does not believe in consensual change, viewing politics as a zero-sum game of "winning" over adversaries. He is an outspoken protectionist.

The president heaps opprobrium upon elites ("the swamp") and urges his followers to distrust elite expertise, too. **He is a nationalist.** His administration does not respect the rule of law, with **the president himself having called parts of the Constitution "phony."** He is frequently at loggerheads with national security experts and hawks within his own party. And he expressly believes that the United States is just another country, not an exceptional nation with a responsibility to provide global leadership.

In other words, Trump is not a conservative. This has always been obvious—and, indeed, is the precise reason that so many conservative intellectuals rejected Trump during the 2016 primary process. What is interesting, however, is that liberal Democrats have joined in with the criticism of Trump for not being conservative enough—at least implicitly.

Democrats, too, have looked to established institutions to constrain the president, and have viewed it as illegitimate (not just unfortunate) that Trump has refused to abide by unwritten rules and conventions. Democrats have exhorted the president to respect tradition, move slowly, and shy away from radicalism. They have decried populism in principle, not just in practice.

Some Democrats have attacked Trump for abandoning free trade and for disparaging America as a less-than-exceptional country. They even criticize Trump for not listening to elites in the military and intelligence establishments, seemingly exalting those few national security grandees who have spoken out against the President for envisaging a slimmer world role for the United States. In short,

Democrats have criticized Trump for not being conservative enough, even if they have obviously not framed their attacks in such terms.

On its face, this should be excellent news for conservatives and conservatism. Through his failures, Trump is demonstrating in real-time not only that conservative precepts are useful, but that conservatism might even be a philosophy that can unify America's governing class. Surely, the lessons being learned by America's political, economic, and cultural leaders are that presidents err when they abandon incrementalism in favor of radicalism? That the country must put its faith in tradition and established (and establishment) wisdom over the false prophets of populism? Also, if America is to overcome polarization, then One Nation conservatism might be a good place to start?

These ought to be powerful arguments in favor of conservatism. But they will never be heard above the din of recriminations in the post-Trump political environment. It will be impossible for today's staunch defenders of Trump to claim tomorrow that the president's failures were the result of his non-conservatism. They might try, but it will be hard to ignore that, instead of criticizing Trump for his serious failures of judgment, policy, and conduct, overwhelming numbers of conservatives (around 90 percent of Republican voters and almost all Republican members of Congress) have been clear and consistent in their support for Trump in office.

After Trump, conservatives will find themselves still bound and gagged as a result of their close association to a president who rejected all their ideas but whom they supported anyway. It will be irrelevant whether conservatives backed the President because they, as pragmatists, have prized power over principles, or because they genuinely admire Trump's hodgepodge brand of semi-authoritarian big-statism. All that matters is that conservatives have supported Trump, the broad mass of the American people know this, and so conservatives cannot avoid owning his failures.

Needless to say, all of this is welcome news for those on the Left. If conservatives cannot claim to have the antidote to Trump's excesses without first distancing themselves from the president himself, then liberals and progressives face no such impediment. They pegged Trump as a probable (and impeachable) failure early on. Whenever (and however) Trump is finally ejected from office, the Left will enjoy a

fairly good prospect of tossing mainstream conservatives overboard with him. The deck will be clear for a new set of governing ideas, institutions, and personalities.

THE DAILY WIRE

Trump Celebrates Republicans LOSING Key U.S. Senate Race

By [Ryan Saavedra](#), Nov 8, 2022

Former President [Donald Trump](#) (R) cheered as Republicans lost a potential pickup in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday night.

Trump made the shot on his social media platform against Joe O’Dea (R) in Colorado as many Republicans across the country underperformed expectations.

“Joe O’Dea lost BIG!” Trump said. “MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!”

Celebrating losing what would have been a crucial senate seat pick up even as odds the GOP takes a majority fade away. 🗣️ pic.twitter.com/9HUSf1xnHM

— Cernovich (@Cernovich) [November 9, 2022](#)

O’Dea lost to incumbent U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) in a race that had grown [unexpectedly close](#) in recent days with the RealClearPolitics average recently indicating that the race had moved from “lean Democrat” to “toss up.”

Reporter Alex Roarty noted how Trump had approached the race vs. how Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) approached the race. “Going to be a topic of conversation moving forward that Trump told his supporters not to vote for O’Dea — while DeSantis recorded a robo-call for him,” Roarty tweeted.

THE DAILY WIRE

Trump Attacks DeSantis Again: I'll Release 'Things About Him That Won't Be Very Flattering' If He Runs In 2024

By [Ryan Saavedra](#), Nov 8, 2022

Former President [Donald Trump](#) (R) launched another attack against Florida Governor [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) before polls closed on Tuesday evening, threatening to release what he claims is damaging information on DeSantis should the governor run for president in 2024.

[The Wall Street Journal](#) and [Fox News](#) noted Trump's remarks in reports published Tuesday afternoon. Trump made the remarks while flying back to Florida Monday evening after hosting a rally in Ohio.

Trump claimed that there was no "tiff" with DeSantis after he [mocked](#) the governor over the weekend, calling him "Ron DeSanctimonious" and using old poll numbers showing that he had a lead on DeSantis in a 2024 presidential primary.

"I don't know if he is running. I think if he runs, he could hurt himself very badly," Trump said. "I really believe he could hurt himself badly. I think he would be making a mistake, I think the base would not like it — I don't think it would be good for the party."

"If he runs, he runs," Trump continued. "I would tell you things about him that won't be very flattering — I know more about him than anybody — other than, perhaps, his wife."

The attacks from Trump on DeSantis come after one of Trump's lawyers, Alina Habba, also [took shots](#) at the governor this week, saying that he "needs to stay in Florida" and that "DeSantis is DeSantis because of Trump." She also claimed that DeSantis was not polished enough to be president, saying, "He's not ready yet."

However, when he was asked by reporters on Tuesday if he voted for DeSantis for governor, Trump responded, "Yes, I did."

THE LAST REFUGE

“DeSanctimonious” is Not About the Florida Governor

November 6, 2022 | [Sundance](#) | [888 Comments](#)

In December of 2009 the results of the most consequential special election of the decade were transmitted from a rebellious bunch of misfits who shook the political elite to Washington DC. Republican Scott Brown was elected to take the “Kennedy Seat” in Massachusetts in an epic battle that surprised both the Democrat and Republican establishment.

The DC political class (both parties) were shook, triggered, jaw-dropped & aghast... **A revolt was visible.**



It wasn't just the Democrats who reacted, organized and responded with the urgency of a 2012 counter-offensive. **The rebellious threat from the working class was as much abhorred by the Republican political class, the Bushes, McCains and McConnells who saw the Tea Party uprising as toxic to their control.**

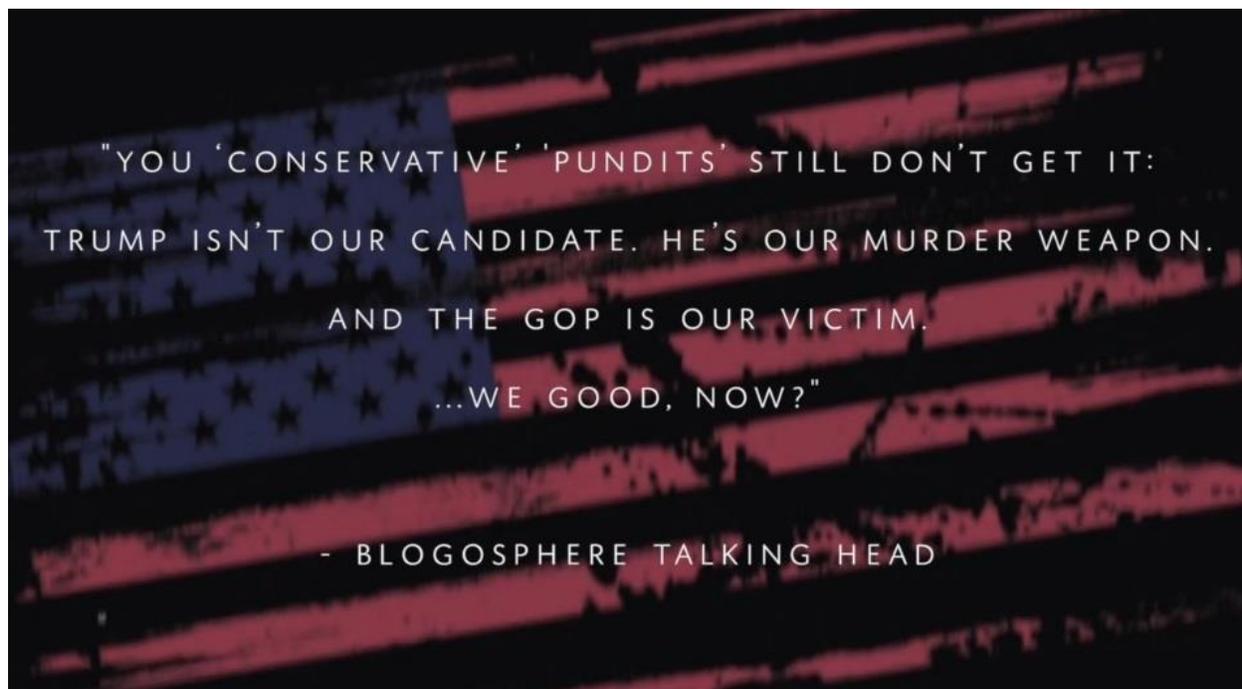
The working-class uprising, the originating assembly of what is now the MAGA movement represented in that Massachusetts winter special election had to be destroyed, and that was why the Tea Party movement had to be co-opted and destroyed by the Republican party. From their professionally Republican perspective, including the billionaire and Wall Street donors who try to influence

the club platform, **there are no limits to what they will do to retain control, nothing is out-of-bounds.**

That's why we saw the GOPe primary '*splitter strategy*' first deployed to scale in 2012. Romney was installed as the nominee, and gleefully the GOPe watched as he was defeated by Obama's reelection bid in November. **The status-quo was achieved.** The DC UniParty was repaired, and all things were back under club control. **Two wings of the same UniParty once again giving the illusion of choice.**

For those of us who fully understood what was done, and by that time our 2013 ranks were more significant, it became crystal clear the 'first-things-first' approach would require the Republican political elite to be removed and confronted first – before the communists in the left wing of the UniParty could be attacked. We needed a weapon against them....

.....ENTER Donald John Trump.



Donald John Trump wasn't just our MAGA candidate in 2015, he was our murder weapon and the professional GOPe elite, the party system within the Republican club, was our intended victim.

The 2016 Republican club counter-offensive to a reenergized movement now carrying the MAGA banner, was led by the 'Never Trumpers'. Most of you will easily remember how the professional political class, the Jeb Bush wing within the Republican club, responded. However, this time in 2016 we had the previous experience, the lessons and a map of their playbook in hand.

The MAGA movement knew what the GOPe club were trying to do, and we defeated them because our candidate was big, snarky, strong and impervious to the professional Republican club throwing everything including the kitchen sink at him. We The People were not going to retreat. We held the line, moved forward and won. **However, our 2016 victory made the Republican inside club even more furious.**

The Bushes, McConnells et al were unwilling to relinquish control of the club and would do anything, say anything and use every institutional lever within their control to remain in power. The inside DC Republican club used every deceptive resource available to undermine our President and kneecap him from disrupting the system.

It wasn't just the Democrats trying to impeach President Trump, **the Republican wing of the UniParty was more than willing to provide background support, they just couldn't be visible when doing it.**

This is the battle for control of the Republican Party. It's not about voters or candidates per se', the battle is for the control of a private club – the RNC. President Trump has loosened the grip, but it is up to *We The People* of the MAGA movement to pry their fingers from the mechanisms of control.



Ron DeSantis Endorses Joe O'Dea who Vows to Campaign Against Donald Trump



Jenna Ellis 🍊 🦅 🗳️
@JennaEllisEsq



What is Ronna McDaniel doing with pro-choice, Trump-hating Joe O'Dea?



7:38 PM · Oct 24, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

154 Retweets 36 Quote Tweets 525 Likes

What I am describing above is what the background battle, within the state of Florida, around Ron DeSantis, is all about.

The Bush clan have wrapped their arms around Governor Ron DeSantis as a 2024 weapon to counteract the MAGA movement. They have poured hundreds of millions into the “acceptable Republican” effort and are in full control of the DeSantis campaign management.

The Mitt Romney’s, Mitch McConnell’s, Paul Ryan’s, Kevin McCarthy’s etc are trying to leverage the club dynamic over Ron DeSantis and provide enticements to

maintain the alliance with their internal battle plan to retain full control over the Republican Party.

The Never Trumpers, financed by donors, the professional party system and club officials, are all part of the internecine battle.

When President Trump labels the former congressman, now Florida Governor as “Ron DeSanctimonious,” that background reality is the who, what, when and why.

This battle is about Republican Party control and the use of Ron DeSantis by the club members who refuse to let go of power.

As noted by a [comment from Rick Stans](#):

Watching heads explode over Trump’s “DeSantimonious” comment is exactly what the RINO elite relishes! Sundance has spelled out Ron’s position very clearly over the past weeks and anyone with half a brain could see it! Ron is a tool being forged as the splitter to weaken Trump in his bid to win in ‘24.

Moreso, the “god” man is what the RINO elite like Ryan and McCarthy hope will destroy the MAGA movement and restore the order of Kings & Queens in D.C. verses the serfs in fly-over country! The Coastals are becoming a bit uneasy hearing about Red Waves and MAGA movements! Time to crush these peasants once and for all!

Enter “god” man! Smiling, snarky Ron the Trump slayer! The Rip Van Winkle of Mar-a-Lago post raid! Trump’s friendly shot across the bow is a wake-up call!

*No Ron, we won’t sit back and let you be another fraud, **a fallen acorn from the dead Bush Oak** that was fertilized with our hard-earned tax dollars for decades!*

Either we’re all in for MAGA (despite what Trump does) or we’ll all be learning how to say “can I trade my dollars for yuan” in Mandarin one day! Wake up foolish Ron supporters who have become offended by Trump! Haven’t you learned from your parents that “sticks and stones may break my bones.....”

Trump is a gamer and his words were just a precursor to let Ron know that all the money and notoriety he will be promised for distancing himself from MAGA to

“Save” America, is really nothing but fools gold in the end if MAGA goes the way of the Tea Party!

The Republican Club would rather lose elections and retain power than win and be held accountable to deliver on their false promises.