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# The Hancock County Democrat



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## The New Confederacy

Bruce Workman

*I decided that there was enough recent pertinent material, to justify a second January edition. I finished the research and began writing this article on the evening of January 5. Obviously, there was a major event effectively related to the thesis of this article. I will amend my research to include some of the implications in this commentary, along with the admission that due to the pace at which new information is coming in, much of what is included in this publication will appear outdated by the date of publication.*

While many of the reactions by Donald Trump to the election results were predictable, I must admit that I was somewhat surprised by recent actions and the support of these actions received from many members of the Republican party. My surprise turned to shock and anxiety upon the unfolding of events of January 6. The thugs and domestic terrorists who invaded the Capitol and injured police officers while waving confederate and Trump flags have served to drive home my point.

My article about election disputes (December issue) included acts as horrific but were over one hundred and forty years ago. I am truly dismayed because some of the motives remain the same. Those that attempted to object to the certification of the Electoral College results cited the Hayes/Tilden election dispute of 1876. This took a bit of legal maneuvering that can only be considered deceptive when proposed by former Supreme Court clerks. There are some major differences, and the only similarities are the underlying racism and hatred for the collective constituency. The most profound difference is that there was actual election fraud occurring in the 1876 election. There were verifiable facts to consider. The Southern Democrats disenfranchised the newly franchised black population in their states and the Republicans responded with a more covert form of fraud—justifying it by saying they know the other side was going to cheat. Anyone who still believes there was massive election fraud, in this case, is either stupid, willfully ignorant, brainwashed, or trying to improve their pernicious political future.

Let us make no mistake, the challenges to the free and fair election, both by opportunistic public officials and the deluded masses, is nothing short of an insurrection. This was made apparent on January 6 but has been in the making for the last four years. Trump's desire for autocratic rule was apparent from the start. His earliest statements and actions make this apparent to any who took the time to notice. Most of those who enabled him knew better and still supported. A vast majority of the legislators and other officials who assisted his agenda were lawyers or had earned a JD degree. With their background, a claim of ignorance of the consequences is just not credible. The decision to charge these individuals with seditious conspiracy resides with the Justice Department and the courts, but certainly, a case can be made against the President and many of his supporters if prosecutors so choose. Title 18 U.S. Code §2384 – Seditious conspiracy, states, among other things, "...or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States or by force to seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both." It is apparent that the actions of those who raided plundered and vandalized the U.S. Capitol are defined under this statute. Since the word conspiracy is in the title and a conspiracy can, by definition, involve individuals who are not involved in the actual act, it remains to be seen if those who spread the lies that incited the raid can or will be charged under this law.

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## The New Confederacy (continued from page 2)

I researched and began writing this before the actions of January 6. The new confederacy was established and in place, before these events occurred, in fact, there seems to be a causal relationship. This insurrection has been brewing for months, if not years. Many of the same issues are involved in this sedition as were involved in the secession and firing on Ft. Sumter. Although slavery is no longer the issue, I believe racism and white grievance are still major motivations behind Trump's enablers and supporters. There is still an ongoing effort to deny the rights and freedoms of minorities. The radical right faction of the Republican party has been long engaged in an effort to suppress the civil rights of black people, for both political and, I suspect, personal reasons. I believe Ted Cruz is a political psychopath who will do anything to maintain and expand his power while Cindy Hyde-Smith and many others in the new confederacy are no less racist than Nathan Bedford Forrest.

The first assault on the Republicans was by the Tea Party, which was largely initiated and supported by moneyed right-wingers and corporate interests. The effect was to move the party further to the right and to create a model for pseudo-populist movements. The Trump movement is based on white grievances; appealing to those who long for the days when white privilege was considered a natural part of American life. The success of his movement led to the election of the nation's eleventh openly racist POTUS ([The 11 Most Racist U.S. Presidents](#) I did not include George W. Bush, because I felt his statements did not fit the definition of openly).

The new confederacy does not compare well with the confederacy of the 1860s. The southern states that comprised the Confederate States of America had been advocating slavery since there was an abolitionist movement. There was no mistake about the motives behind their insurrection and at least they had enough courage of their convictions to resign. As I mentioned in a previous edition when the confederates fired on Fort Sumter, they committed an act of treason and it would have been no problem to prosecute those involved if that was what the victors choose to do. Treason is difficult to charge and prosecute so the overt and covert participants will not likely be charged as they should. The lies concerning election fraud that have been spread for the past five years are a direct cause of the recent assault on our democracy. The intent was the overthrow of the Constitution and the principles that have caused the republic to exist for longer than any other. When Ben Franklin (attribution uncertain) answered "a republic if we can keep it," he may have had something like the events of the past few months in mind.

The eleventh-hour moral epiphanies we have witnessed since the rebellion of January 6, 2021, are not credible. They knew the monster they were enabling and either did nothing or abetted him for over four years, only having a change of heart when they were personally threatened. Any profiles in courage earned will have to go to those who called the orange ogre what he was and stood up the thug army he had at his disposal. If they genuinely believed in their cause enough to file objections, during what should have been an uneventful routine, they should have the conviction to resign in protest. They will not because they value their political careers over any principle. Regardless of the outcome—whether it be censure, legal action, or no formal action—we should do everything in our power to ensure that none of these traitors are ever elected to office. I have included a list—from the New York Times— of 147 individuals who are among the leadership of the new confederacy—a stain that must never be removed. [The 147 Republicans Who Voted to Overturn Election Results](#)



## Trump Enablers Now Condemning the Violence Want You to Forget the Past 4 Years

Inae Oh *Mother Jones*



Mother Jones illustration; AP, Getty

Powerful enablers who up until this week had stuck by Donald Trump as he incited and practically begged his supporters to unleash violence are suddenly over it. The very people who'd spent years treating Trump rallies as nothing more than walk-in dioramas of hate—cartoonishly evil but still just a cartoon—are suddenly issuing blistering statements. Tweeting curse words. Saying enough of this president. But let's be real: The panicked efforts we're seeing this week are nothing more than a performance of strained morality and self-pity.

Don't get us wrong, condemning violence is always good. Welcomed! But it's not nearly enough to erase what came before. So to this parade, we can't help but say—how should we put this?—fuck off. Too little, too late. Below is a non-comprehensive list of those who deserve your best wishes.

### Dan Crenshaw

The Texas Republican, whose transformation from rising GOP star into one of the Trumpiest congressmen of them all, is mad. But Crenshaw is decrying the very bullshit he had a direct hand in shitting out. Did he honestly believe we had already forgotten how he promoted the entirely false allegations of a stolen election that pro-Trump insurrectionists turned into a rallying cry for domestic terrorism? Well, we didn't. Nor did we forget that in 2017, Crenshaw went on national television to defend the president's "both sides" comments in the wake of Charlottesville, claiming that Trump was "definitely not referring to white nationalists" as fine people.

### Betsy DeVos

The Education Secretary and sister to Erik Prince was AWOL throughout 2020, taking a back-back-back seat as the country struggled with some of the most important education decisions amid a pandemic. But with two weeks left, DeVos has suddenly reemerged to let us know that she's both alive and not happy. "We are left to clean up the mess caused by violent protesters overrunning the US Capitol in an attempt to undermine the people's business," she wrote in a statement. "There is no mistaking the impact your rhetoric had on the situation, and it is the inflection point for me."

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## Trump Enablers Now Condemning the Violence Want You to Forget the Past 4 Years (continued from page 4)

Those are some tough words for a woman who had all but abandoned her post long before this week's horror. As schools around the country remain floundering amid the worst wave of the pandemic yet, let's memorialize DeVos as perhaps the most ill-equipped education secretary in quite some time. Maybe ever.

### Mark Zuckerberg

After years of arrogant resistance and emperor cosplay, the Facebook founder finally blocked Trump on its platforms until Jan. 20, writing that the risks of "allowing the president to continue to use our service during this period are simply too great." The move is something of a break, at least temporarily, from Zuckerberg's near-total willingness to side with Trump despite pleas from civil rights groups, as well as the company's overwhelming failure to combat abuse and extremist ideology by the pro-Trump insurrectionists we saw rampage Congress. Banning the president's spigot of bigotry for the next two weeks—after years of accruing immoral levels of wealth—is therefore just not going to cut it.

### Kellyanne Conway

The former Trump adviser and prolific liar once had quite the self-serving spin on the violence she now claims to reject. "The more chaos and anarchy and vandalism and violence reigns," Conway told *Fox & Friends* in August, "the better it is for the very clear choice on who's best on public safety and law and order."

### Bill Barr

Such a statement from a former attorney general and fierce presidential ally would normally land as scathing. And maybe it is. Except for the fact that Barr has had a direct role in encouraging some of Trump's very worst instincts, including the administration's decision to forcibly remove peaceful protesters in Lafayette Square last summer. Since falling out with the presidential terrorist last month, Barr has been eager to shut down Trump's bogus claims on the way out the door. But his legacy as one of the most corrupt attorney generals remains well intact.

### Elaine Chao

On Thursday, the Transportation Secretary and wife of Mitch McConnell became the first Cabinet member to flee in the wake of this week's attempted coup. "Our country experienced a traumatic and entirely avoidable event as supporters of the President stormed the Capitol building," Chao wrote in her resignation letter. "As I'm sure is the case with many of you, it has deeply troubled me in a way that I simply cannot set aside." But we haven't forgotten Chao wagging her finger at protesters demonstrating against the Trump administration's inhumane immigration policies. "Why don't you leave my husband alone!" Chao cried, smacking down the accusation that the Senate majority leader supported the administration's policy of separating children at the border.

### Lindsey Graham

You'd be hardpressed to find another Republican senator, one who has spent his career insisting that he's just a principled public servant, who so shamelessly fashioned himself into one of Trump's biggest enablers over the past four years. But after getting besieged by the mob this week, Graham wants you to believe that his "hell of a journey" with the president has now come to a halting screech. Still, he doesn't support invoking the 25th Amendment until "something else happens."

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## Trump Enablers Now Condemning the Violence Want You to Forget the Past 4 Years (continued from page 5)

### Ivanka Trump

A whole dissertation could be written on Ivanka-flavored hypocrisy. There's her obscene commitment to cultivating a public persona that doesn't exist, bean ambitions, and tone-deaf advice to the millions of unemployed. But let's start simple and turn our attention to the most recent: her deleted tweet praising the mob as "patriots" in between what appears to be a swift exit from DC.

### Ted Cruz

For this exercise, I'll again recommend looking at the most recent: the Texas senator's role in leading a band of Republicans to object to the election results. And despite everything that took place on Wednesday, Cruz didn't even blink. Instead, he forged ahead to deliver exactly what the mob wanted.

### Marco Rubio

The Florida Republican could have left this week largely unnoticed. But his apparent commitment to embarrassing himself before the altar of Trump had other plans:

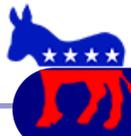
### Greg Gianforte

In 2017, while campaigning for Congress, Gianforte literally body-slammed a reporter for asking him a question about health care—and for hours avoided issuing an apology. Gianforte's campaign even attempted to blame the shocking assault on the Guardian's Ben Jacobs, claiming that Jacobs' line of questioning had been "aggressive." Despite violently attacking a reporter, Gianforte still won his election and later earned Trump's praise: "He's my kind of guy."

### Nikki Haley

Haley's unmistakable thirst for the White House has often led the former United Nations ambassador for the Trump administration to toe the line of something resembling a dignified Republican and an all-out sycophant supporting some of Trump's most despicable lies. The latter certainly appeared following the president's baseless claims of election fraud. "Despite what the media tells us, election fraud does happen," Haley said in a Nov. 13 tweet, days after Biden's victory had been officially called, "harvesting and mailing ballots to people who don't request them makes it easier."

But after Wednesday, Haley apparently remembered her other self: "President Trump has not always chosen the right words," Haley told a group of RNC members in a closed-door speech, according to Politico, concluding that Trump's "actions since Election Day will be judged harshly by history."



[Interview Transcript](#) (Dan Fleckner 1/4/21)

[How to Navigate Contentious Conversations](#)



[Hancock County Democrats Events Calendar](#)

[Hancock County Democrats \(unsecured\)](#)

[Ohio Democratic Party](#)

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[Quit Robbing Ohio](#)



## This Month's Cartoons

[Ted Cruz Touts Courageous Record of Opposing Trump—The New Yorker](#)





### This Month's Cartoons



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## ABOUT

“The Hancock County Democrat “ is an official publication of the Democratic Party of Hancock County, Ohio.

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