



The RETIREE RECORD

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PITTSBURGH AREA RETIREE CHAPTER
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TRUMP THE DESTROYER

The Trump pretense is unmasked! Again! How many times has he been on the record that he would never touch Medicare and Social Security? Well, that promise, like the other thousands of lies he has uttered, may be the largest whopper yet. His deferring payroll taxes is a set-up for the Republican long term goal of destroying those vital protections. Make no mistake about it, to senior retirees, Medicare and Social Security are the lifelines that make our retirement possible. Even with our retirement annuity, if those protections are attacked and diminished, we would be lost. One serious illness would wipe us out. This latest attack on seniors is similar to Trump's unconscionable targeting Obama Care through the courts up to and including the Supreme Court. While he gives obscene tax breaks to his rich friends and corporate entities, he is eagerly willing to subject the rest of us (read seniors, working class families and children) to no means to survive.

As retirees, we have paid into both of those protections for our working careers. For those that have only the Civil Service pension, you can bet that something is in the works to diminish that also. Trump's administration is on record of wanting to wipe out the Federal Employees Health Benefit Act that provides medi-gap coverage through private carriers. Those are the insurance policies that makes up the difference in Medicare coverage.

Let me be crystal clear on this point for those who have supported Trump in the past and are considering supporting him in the next election. To do so you are willing to sacrifice your well being and that of your family, as well as the rest of the working class. Voting against your interest is suicidal. If you like seeing the homeless on our streets, be prepared to join them. If we lose those protections we may have no choice. That is, if we don't expire without medical intervention, including drugs, that can't be paid for.

ABSENTEE VOTING UNDER ATTACK

It looks like Trump henchman PMG Delay is already meddling in the upcoming election. His antics are highlighted in a letter dated August 12, 2020, from the Democratic Senators, signed by 44 of them, portions of which are reprinted below:

We write to express significant concern regarding reports that you are implementing policy changes that will increase the cost for timely delivery of election mail, and urge you not to take any action that makes it harder and more expensive for Americans to vote.

Like voting itself, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is vital to our democracy. Since you assumed the role of Postmaster General, there have been disturbing reports regarding changes at USPS that are causing significant delays in the delivery of mail. Under normal circumstances, delayed mail is a major problem - during a pandemic in the middle of a presidential election, it is catastrophic. Instead of taking steps to increase your agency's ability to deliver for the American people, you are implementing policy changes that make matters worse, and the Postal Service is reportedly considering changes that would increase costs for states at a time when millions of Americans are relying on voting by mail to exercise their right to vote.

(over)

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) allows state and local officials to send materials authorized or required under the Act, such as absentee ballot applications, at USPS Nonprofit Marketing prices. ...Absentee ballots themselves are not specifically covered under the NVRA; however, many jurisdictions receive the lower rate for ballots as well because they utilize the Undeliverable As Addressed (UAA) information from returned ballots for list maintenance activities prescribed under the NVRA. ... While First Class mail normally has a delivery standard of 2-5 days, and Nonprofit Marketing Mail has a delivery standard of 3-10 days, it has been the practice of USPS to treat all election mail as First Class mail regardless of the paid class of service.

We have received reports that in the last several weeks, the Postal Service sent letters to state election officials that indicate that the Postal Service will not automatically treat all election mail as First Class. If any changes are made to longstanding practices of moving election mail just months ahead of the 2020 general election, it will cause further delays to election mail that will disenfranchise voters and put significant pressure on election jurisdictions.... As election officials across the country plead with Congress to authorize additional election funding, reports suggest the Postal Service could implement changes that suddenly increase costs for Americans to safely vote. That is wrong and unacceptable.

1. Prior to 2020 it was the practice of the Postal Service to prioritize the delivery of all election mail, including voter registration materials, absentee ballot request, and ballots to meet the equivalent of First Class delivery times no matter what class of mail was used to send it. Will the Postal Service commit to continuing this practice?

2. Will the Postal Service commit to continuing its longstanding practice of allowing election officials to mail ballots to voters at Nonprofit Marketing Mail Rates?

3. Has USPS headquarters staff provided any guidance, formally or informally, in writing or verbally, regarding the service standards to be applied to election mail not sent at the First Class rate? Please provide copies of any such guidance.

TRUMP IS TRYING TO RIG THE ELECTION AND WRECK THE WORKING CLASS AND SENIORS

We have seen a lot of questionable political operatives over our 60 years observing the antics of some politicians. But nothing was even close to the slimy unethical attempt that Trump is trying to pull off to rig the election for himself. Just consider a partial record of what he has been up to:

ITEM - He has destroyed oversight of his administration by decimating the Inspector General Corps, to prevent exposure of his behavior that more than borders on the criminal.

ITEM - Through his henchman PMG Delay, he is trying to destroy the Postal Service in the belief that voting by mail will unseat him.

ITEM - He has spent more than three years trying to eliminate health care from millions by attacking Obama Care. He failed in the Senate because of John McCain, now has a case before the Supreme Court.

ITEM - After running for office pledging to protect Medicare and Social Security, he now threatens both by suspending the payroll tax, which funds them.

America is not a banana republic or a fascist dictatorship, as hard as Trump is trying to make it one or the other. He is totally undeserving of support from any quarter. We urge our members to get behind the effort to resist and displace him in November. As we have repeated many times, later regrets count for nothing!

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Robert Gesk, Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, and Veronica Bujdos are on the shut-in list. Please keep a good thought for our shut-ins. There but for the grace of God..... (To be included on the shut-in list call the Chapter at 724 947 9374.)

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