

A LESS OBVIOUS QUESTION ABOUT NYT'S REPORTING ON TRUMP- RUSSIA

Over the last several years, one thing has bothered me about The New York Times, something not immediately obvious in these related pieces of what may be the most important work the paper published since the early 2000s.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER: COMPARING 'SPARROWS' CHAPMAN AND BUTINA

Let's take a look at two somewhat similar winged creatures, one of which is currently in a cage in Virginia.

BIG DICK TOILETS AND SASQUATCH DOLLS: MATT WHITAKER'S QUALIFICATIONS TO BE DOG-CATCHER

This will be a running post of the many reasons why Matt Whitaker is not qualified to be Acting Attorney General.

THE PSY-GROUP PRESENTATION SUGGESTS ONLINE TROLLS SWUNG RICHARD BURR'S STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

The influence operation document Mueller's team is examining suggests that online trolls may have swung Richard Burr's state of North Carolina.

YET MORE PROOF FACEBOOK'S SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM IS GOOD AT SURVEILLING — EVEN RUSSIAN HACKERS

After Robby Mook tried to fact check Mark Zuckerberg yesterday, Alex Stamos provided more details about what Facebook saw of Russian hacking in real time yesterday.

WHAT DID WIKILEAKS DO WITH THE DCCC EMAILS IT MONOPOLIZED?

When Wikileaks convinced Emma Best not to publish the DCCC emails Guccifer 2.0 offered, it created the opportunity for Guccifer 2.0 to share them with individual Republicans around the country.

THE EMBARRASS MITCH MCCONNELL PROVISION OF THE INTEL AUTHORIZATION

One provision of the Intelligence Authorization bill would reveal all the threats to election infrastructure that Mitch McConnell refused to publicize last year.

MCCAIN'S BRAIN VERSUS AMERICAN LIVES AND HEALTHCARE

There is no joy here in the Mudville that is Arizona. John McCain may have been somebody that natives like me disfavored from the start because of his hubristic usurpation of a true legend and son of Arizona, John Rhodes, but no one here wanted this.

Not now. Not ever.

So the "press" such as they may be, can run all their blathering hagiographies. Go run with that. It's what you do, isn't it?

But, for now, thankfully, McCain is alive and well. I am thankful for that.

And, I hope, at this critical juncture in life, John McCain finds it within himself to realize that the healthcare that has kept him alive, and diagnosed his problems, should NOT be limited to Congresspeople and those that married into money. We all deserve the benefit of what McCain has realized.

John McCain has an opportunity to stand up now for those that have none of his storied display of heroism, nor the benefit of his position. His story, because Mr. McCain was born into military care and then segued into other money and entitlement that does not transfer to most of us. For the common citizens he has always talked about, yet curiously abandoned, when it counted in close measures on the Senate floor, where has John McCain been? Absent, that is where.

The man who lived under the press moniker "Maverick" can ride into the famous sunset of his adopted state by helping real people instead of going out with the McConnell Republicans determined to screw the populous. Who will John McCain be?

Who will John McCain be? The elusive and etherial "Maverick" he has always painted himself as being? Or the reliable vote for craven Republican policies that devastate real citizens? Arizona, indeed America itself, deserves the McCain always portrayed and lionized in his numerous campaigns. Not the guy who always defaulted to the GOP sick and craven core.

Will John McCain have the guts and glory he is famous for, and go out fighting for the common American and their human rights to healthcare and financial and educational stability? The

exact things McCain has fatuously blabbered about and never really supported in Congress? Or will he do better?

Who are you truly John McCain? A dying country, in the age of Trump, wants to know.

You have a chance to now be the man you always painted yourself to be. For the sake of this country, please be that man.

PENETRATED: TODAY'S SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN THE 2016 U.S. ELECTIONS

Nothing in today's Senate Intelligence Committee's hearing nor the House Intelligence Committee hearing changed the fact the U.S. election system was penetrated last year. We should be very concerned.

A LETTER FOR ROD ROSENSTEIN TO REMEMBER



Before
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were
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still plays in words that conveyed huge situations beyond the mere words. One was “A Night To Remember”. Yes, even before the famous movie (and before the sappy and stupid “Titanic” decades later), it was an earlier book about the Titanic disaster. There are daily shipwrecks as significant as that now in the Age of Trump.

Today, specifically, we have the issue of a Titanic level shipwreck President crashing the country out of pettiness and ignorance like the United States has never ostensibly seen in its history.

Yesterday on Twitter, I noted that there was a telling omission in the supposed “justification” memo Rod Rosenstein penned and Trump initially claimed to rely on as basis for firing Comey:

I think Marty went a tad easy on Rosenstein. Rosenstein authored the document, had to know what it's purpose was, and duplicitously framed it in terms he “thought” he could step back from. No. Just no.

There is simply no other possible reading of the Rosenstein May 9, 2017 memo. If Rosenstein did not understand the purpose his memo was intended for, he is too stupid to be in the DAG job he is. Assuming he has the minimal smarts to understand, then he is a craven and already a failed servant of the American people as DAG. Either way, Rosenstein is terminally compromised.

This morning, in what I can only describe as an admirable *mea culpa* statement that I think will long be remembered, in a good way, Ben Wittes called for Rosenstein to go.

In the end, Trump was able to make set piece out of Rosenstein, because Rosenstein let himself be used as a set piece. And there’s an important lesson in that for the many honorable men and women with pending appointments and nominations to serve in senior levels of

the Justice Department—or who are considering accepting such appointments. It took Donald Trump only two weeks to put Rosenstein, a figure of sterling reputation, in the position of choosing between continued service and behaving honorably—and it took only two days after that for the President to announce that Rosenstein’s memo, after all, was nothing more than a Potemkin village designed as a facade on Trump’s predecided outcome.

Do you really want this to be you? Do you really think Trump will not leave your reputation as so much roadkill on the highway after enlisting you in sliming someone else a week or two after you take office?

The lesson here is that these are not honorable people, and they will do their best to drag you down to their level. They will often succeed.

Here we are, and, thankfully, people in and around the Third Branch, especially in the all important Southern District of New York region (from which Comey has come and gone), are fighting back and speaking out with shouts that are from far more than the cheap seats people like me occupy.

Without further adieu, a letter from SDNY luminaries:

May 12, 2017

Rod J. Rosenstein, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Deputy Attorney General:

We, the undersigned, are former United States Attorneys and Assistant United

States Attorneys for the Southern District of New York. In view of the recent termination of James Comey as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, we are writing to request that you appoint a special counsel to oversee the FBI's continuing investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 Presidential election and related matters. This letter is addressed to you rather than the Attorney General since he has recused himself from this matter.

As you know, Jim has had a long and distinguished career with the Department of Justice, beginning with his appointment as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York serving under United States Attorneys Rudolph Giuliani, Benito Romano and Otto Obermaier from 1987 through 1993. He returned to the Southern District of New York in 2002 when he was appointed the United States Attorney and served in that capacity until he was confirmed as Deputy Attorney General in 2003. Most of us came to know Jim when he worked in the Southern District of New York. Many of us know him personally. All of us respect him as a highly professional and ethical person who has devoted more than 20 years of his life to public service.

While we do not all necessarily agree with the manner in which he dealt with the conclusion of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, we sincerely believe that his abrupt and belated termination for this conduct, occurring months later and on the heels of his public testimony about his oversight of the investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election, has the appearance – if not the reality – of interfering with that

investigation. Even if this investigation continues unabated, there is a substantial risk that the American people will not have confidence in its results, no matter who is appointed to succeed him, given that the Director of the FBI serves at the pleasure of the President. We believe it is critical in the present political climate and clearly in the public's interest that this investigation be directed by a truly independent, non-partisan prosecutor who is independent of the Department of Justice, as is contemplated by 28 C.F.R. §600.1.

We are Republicans, Democrats and independents. Most importantly, we are proud alumni and alumnae of the Department of Justice. We do not suggest that you or any other members of the Department of Justice or a newly appointed Director of the FBI would not conduct yourselves properly, but the gravity of this investigation requires that even the appearance of political involvement in this investigation be avoided. As former prosecutors, we believe the only solution in the present circumstances would be to appoint a Special Counsel pursuant to 28 C.F.R. §600.1, and we urge you to take that course.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan S. Abernethy Elkan Abramowitz

Richard F. Albert

Marcus A. Asner Martin J. Auerbach

Miriam Baer

Thomas H. Baer Kerri Martin Bartlett

Maria Barton

Andrew Bauer Bernard W. Bell Richard

Ben-Veniste

Neil S. Binder Laura Gossfield Birger

Ira H. Block

Suzanne Jaffe Bloom Barry A. Bohrer

Daniel H. Bookin
Jane E. Booth Katharine Bostick Laurie
E. Brecher
David M. Brodsky Stacey Mortiz Brodsky
William Bronnermn
Jennifer K. Brown Marshall A. Camp
Bennett Capers
Michael Q. Carey Neil S. Cartusciello
Sarah Chapman
Robert J. Cleary Brian D. Coad Glenn C.
Colton
William Craco Nelson W. Cunningham
Constance Cushman
Frederick T. Davis John M. Desmarais
Rhea Dignam
Gregory L. Diskant Philip L. Douglas
Sean Eskovitz
Jesse T. Fardella Meir Feder Ira M.
Feinberg
Michael S. Feldberg Steven D. Feldman
Edward T. Ferguson
David Finn Eric P. Fisher Sharon E.
Frase
Steven I. Froot Maria T. Galeno
Catherine Gallo
Robert Garcia Kay K. Gardiner Ronald L.
Garnett
Scott Gilbert Barbara S. Gillers Mark
Godsey
Joshua A. Goldberg James A. Goldston
Mark P. Goodman
George I. Gordon Sheila Gowan Stuart
GraBois
Paul R. Grand Helen Gredd Bruce Green
Marc L. Greenwald Jamie Gregg James G.
Greilsheimer
Jane Bloom Grise Nicole Gueron Barbara
Guss
Steven M. Haber Jonathan Halpern David
Hammer
Jeffrey Harris Mark D. Harris Roger J.
Hawke
Steven P. Heineman Mark R. Hellerer
William Hibsher
Jay Holtmeier John R. Horan Patricia M.
Hynes

Linda Imes Douglas Jensen James Kainen
Eugene Kaplan Steven M. Kaplan William
C. Komaroff
David Koenigsberg Cynthia Kouril Mary
Ellen Kris
Stephen Kurzman Nicole LaBarbera Kerry
Lawrence
Sherry Leiwant Jane A. Levine Annmarie
Levins
Raymond A. Levites Donna H. Lieberman
Jon Liebman
Sarah E. Light Jon Lindsey Robin A.
Linsenmayer
Edward J.M. Little Mary Shannon Little
Walter Loughlin
Daniel Margolis Walter Mack Kathy S.
Marks
Mark E. Matthews Marvin S. Mayell Sharon
L. McCarthy
James J. McGuire Joan McPhee Christine
Meding
Paul K. Milmed Judith L. Mogul David E.
Montgomery
Lynn Neils Peter Neiman Rosemary Nidiry
Tai H. Park Robert M. Pennoyer Elliott
R. Peters
Michael Pinnisi Robert Plotz Henry
Putzel
T. Gorman Reilly Emily Reisbaum Peter
Rient
Roland G. Riopelle Michael A. Rogoff
Benito Romano
Amy Rothstein Thomas C. Rubin Daniel S.
Ruzumna
Robert W. Sadowski Elliot G. Sagor Peter
Salerno
Joseph F. Savage John F. Savarese Edward
Scarvalone
Kenneth I. Schacter Frederick Schaffer
Gideon A. Schor
Julian Schreibman Wendy Schwartz Linda
Severin
David Siegal Marjorie A. Silver Paul H.
Silverman
Charles Simon Carolyn L. Simpson David
Sipiora

Dietrich L. Snell Peter Sobol Ira Lee
Sorkin
David W. Spears Katherine Stanton
Franklin H. Stone
Richard M. Strassberg Howard S. Sussman
Erika Thomas
Richard Toder Timothy J. Treanor Paula
Tuffin
Peter Vigeland David Wales Max Wild
Samuel J. Wilson Elaine Wood Paulette
Wunsch
Thomas Zaccaro Ellen Zimiles
cc: Jefferson B. Sessions III, Esq.
Attorney General of the United States

This letter reflects the signers' personal views, not of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the U.S. Department of Justice, or any other government agency.

But it is STRONG. And it is hard to not love it completely. It is raw, and it is real. Nobody asks defense attorneys to sign these missives, nor would anybody give them credit for having done so, were they asked.

This letter, however, is from the elite of the elite prosecutors, with SDNY historic names attached to it (and sometimes significant family names you may not notice), and there are a LOT of them. Almost wonder who did "not" sign on to it?

So, what does it mean?

A LOT. If you know how District level US Attorney offices run, but especially the hallowed ground in SDNY, then you know just how unusual and remarkable is this collective letter.

Think I mentioned "stunning" earlier. It is all that.

Why? Because the problem in the US is here, and it is now. It is bigger than Red versus Blue. It is bigger than Me versus You. It is bigger than

all that. There is a fracture in the very machinery governance itself runs on.

The clockworks of governance are bugged. "We are Republicans, Democrats and independents." And we all deserve better than the orange narcissist piloting the nation into an iceberg.