

Rethinking the World's English Language Industry

Building a Movement – The Major Hurdles

The Coming of the 2nd Republic

This article makes several assumptions about the reader. He or she:

1. Agrees in principle about the need for a congressional purge and reconstitution of the Supreme Court,
2. Understands that the purpose of the movement is not to promote a particular political agenda; rather, it is to put into place a mechanism by which the people can take back what they have allowed to be taken from them -- control of their own government, and
3. Is committed to the goal of the movement -- in short, the individual is willing to assume the risks and make the personal sacrifices necessary to achieve the above ends.

In effect, we, as participants of the movement, do not have to agree on a political agenda per se. We only have to agree on how to achieve the above tasks. In fact, it should be expected that many of us will follow different political agendas once the movement has achieved these tasks. More important at this stage in the planning is that everyone understands well the nature of the potential risks, sacrifices, and rewards from participation. In order to achieve this goal I have divided the following discussion into three parts including: one, arrival; two, realization; and three, follow-through.

Participation in the movement can occur at any or all of these three phases. For example, one could participate in helping with organizing the logistics of the movement, but never appear in Washington. One could appear in Washington and never have participated in the movement's promotion. Although unlikely, some may wish to participate in the purge, and thereafter withdraw from the likely intense national political debate that follows. One would only ask that once committed to a particular task within the process that one remain committed until that task has been achieved. This said, each of the following three stages is fraught with its own challenges, risks, and rewards, and none of the stages is very worthwhile if the stage that follows is not achieved.

PHASE ONE - ARRIVAL

This is the promotion and logistics stage. It is about focusing a sufficient number of people around a single idea and getting them to converge on the same location within a fairly narrow, but indefinite time frame.

Based upon the level of discontent within the general population the promotional aspect of this stage should not be particularly difficult once the goal, strategy, and tactics of the movement are clearly understood. More difficult will be the logistics of bringing everyone together at the same time and place.

As people are brought into the movement, they must be properly identified in an effort to determine in what way they are both willing and able to contribute to the movement's goals and organization. People with good organizational skills, familiarity with the geography of Washington, D.C., and experience in the chartering of buses, booking reservations, urban camping, etc. are of special importance at this stage.

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PHASE TWO - REALIZATION

This stage of the movement, although probably not the most challenging is certainly the most risky, for it is in this stage that participants could be exposed to violence, arrest, and even imprisonment. Let us be clear, there will be few members of the US House, Senate, or Supreme Court who will readily surrender their seats. Two million people standing outside their door demanding that they resign will only begin to mean very much to them, when it gets in the way of their ability to conduct their daily business. Moreover, these people will not be without important contingents of political supporters.

There will surely be those who would view us as querulous thieves, vandals, or even saboteurs of the established democratic process. These people will be loyal to the current Constitution, have complete faith in the system already in place, and believe that their regular participation in national elections makes all the difference.

Although appointed to their positions by previous presidents Supreme Court justices are protected under the Constitution that all US presidents are sworn to defend. In short, no matter how peaceful and numerous we are, it is unlikely that we can win without someone getting hurt. We must prepare accordingly.

This said, our tactic is that of peaceful demonstration and passive obstruction, and we must do everything within our power to insure that violence that would compromise our strategy does not take place. To this end we must consider the following:

1. The organization of our own security force to ward off would-be provocateurs, manage supply lines and waste product, patrol camp grounds, and stand between less able participants and armed security guards, who would sooner have us removed as undesirable squatters than protect our constitutional right of assembly.
2. The establishment of a viable communications infrastructure that can resist attempts on the part of Washington, D.C. authorities to disrupt our communication channels.
3. The organization of speakers, entertainers, and means to amuse ourselves while we convince those who would have us removed that we are not going until our demands are met.
4. The formation of a unified public relations effort to squelch media spin and other attempts to undermine our courage, sacrifice, and sense of purpose.
5. Our legal and constitutional rights under the existing law.

Suggested Tactic: Traffic Congestion

America is the land of the automobile, and most people of any influence in our nation's capital live outside of it. Now imagine a very large number of patriots descending on Washington, D.C. in their automobiles on a predetermined day -- say, a million or so each filled with one or more patriots. These automobiles would pour into our nation's capital one by one until every available parking spot were taken and every major artery were brought to a crawl. At a certain time to be determined by the level of congestion, everyone would stop his car and abandon it with key in hand and hike to the capitol with his backpack and tent.

The congestion would make it impossible for the police or military to navigate through the streets, and each patriot, should he be stopped on his way to the capitol, could claim that his automobile had stalled, would not start again, and that he was looking for a filling station and a place to camp.

It would take the police weeks to remove enough cars to regain motor access to the city, and the cars

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could be easily retrieved after the occupation were over, as no criminal offense was committed. Any damage caused to an individual's automobile would be cause for suit against the government.

Although the military could descend on the city by helicopter and parachute, to what end provided all were peaceful, and we maintained discipline?

PHASE THREE - FOLLOW-THROUGH

Though surely not the heroic moment of compelling the US Congress and Supreme Court into resignation, phase three would be the most difficult of the three stages.

Although a significant first step removing the people who currently occupy Congress and the Supreme Court would only open the door to real change; it would and could not guarantee that the kind of change that we envision would take place. In fact, if the post-purge initiative were improperly conducted the entire effort could backfire, and we could finish worse off than before. The reasons for this are several and important:

- The same national press controlled by the same special interests would still be in place.
- The same two political parties that have dominated the American political scene for more than a century will not have disappeared.
- The wealthy few who manipulate both the press and political parties would stand firm.

What would surely be different is that a large number of Americans who have long since abandoned interest in the American political system would suddenly be awakened, and the nation would enter into a phase of a high political awareness. Would we be ready?

As the idea of the movement is to bring about real change and take back from special interests what we have allowed them to take from us through our unyielding demands at the cash register, we must have ready a mechanism that can be put into place to manage the political debate that ensues after phase two.

This mechanism would have to address the following issues including the

1. Formation of a constitutional assembly whose job it would be to redraft the US Constitution.
2. Conduct of political debate that would accompany the drafting of the new constitution.
3. The national referendum that would take place to approve or reject the new constitution.
4. New elections and the emergence of new political parties to reconstitute Congress.
5. The reconstitution of the supreme court.

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