WHEN THE PEOPLE SPEAK THE POWERS MUST LISTEN: LET THE MAIL GO THROUGH!

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DETOIT – For those who still believe that your voice and your vote do not matter, just ask U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. His recent acquiescence to the will of the people, “to avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail, I am suspending these initiatives until after the election is concluded.” Well lah-dee-dah. After the national outcry, congressional push back, media outlets exposing this voter suppression tactic, an upcoming congressional hearing, and the bankrupt unfounded rantings of President Trump, DeJoy has now gotten a postal epiphany. Perhaps he received it as a result of protestors demonstrating in front of his house. This major donor to the campaign of Donald Trump has no prior experience in United States Postal Service operations, facilities management, or techniques. He was elevated to the top position in what now appears to be a political strategy designed to disrupt this American institution. Employees, mail clerks, and postal workers from across the nation have exposed the removal of mail drop boxes and sorting machines from postal operations. He has cut workers hours, eliminated overtime, and limited access to the mailbox.

Both of my parents were U.S. postal workers. Thank God for the United States Postal Service for it enabled me to go to college on the salaries that they made. My father was a letter carrier. My mother was a mail clerk who sorted the mail for distribution. She often had to learn what was called a scheme in those days. She would bring a box home with various cubicles to practice where the mail should be properly slotted. I would watch her practice and knew to leave her alone. However, this current scheme of the U.S. President along with his own personal postmaster general will not fit into the political slot they have so corruptly arranged.

When Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first postmaster general in 1775, voter suppression and mail delay was not what he had in mind. Matter of fact, he put an odometer on the axle of his carriage and measured distances between post offices at nearly 1,600 miles. He began the Penny Post, a letter that was delivered to your home for a penny. What DeJoy and Trump are doing today is not even worth a penny. It is nothing more than pure voter suppression. It is designed to discourage and to breed mistrust in the postal system by the people of the United States. Under this current administration, even the Pony Express in 1860 would have been suppressed. The riders would have been unable to ride from the east to the west. Water holes would have been drained and no hay would have been found in the barns to feed and water their horses. The Express would simply have been a big mess.

In 1789, the U.S. Constitution authorized Congress to establish post offices and post roads. Article 1, Section 8 Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution indicates, “the postal power also includes the power to designate certain materials as non-mailable and to pass statutes criminalizing abuses of the postal system (such as mail fraud and armed robbery of the post offices).” The American people are being robbed of their postal service.
Seniors are being robbed of their prescriptions. Persons suffering from COVID-19 and other illnesses are being robbed of their medicine. Veterans have been robbed of their paychecks and letters from home. Small businesses are being robbed of their contracts, invoices, and yes, all of us have been robbed of our regular on time delivery of a service that has been constitutionally guaranteed for over 200 years. Well the people have spoken and the mail will go through. However, as my grandmother used to say when I did something wrong or took something from where it properly belonged, “put it back where you got it from.” Put the mailboxes back where you got them from. Restore postal workers back to their normal positions. Restore overtime. As a matter of fact, put back the 10 automated mail sorting machines in Michigan and the hundreds which you removed across the country. Fund the United States Postal Service at the level needed for its continuous operations. Put back the 3 bar code sorting machines in the city of Detroit. Replace the sorting machines in Grand Rapids and Pontiac. Reinstall the same machines back to their regular place in cities across the nation. While you’re at it, help to restore the confidence in the U.S. citizenry by telling the truth. Apologize for disrupting and slowing down our mail service. It is not enough to just cease and desist at this hour. You must put back and reboot the infrastructure of the United States Postal Service ripped out by your folly and misguided assertion of postal inefficiency. In the words of former Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin, “all mankind is divided into three classes: Those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move.” To the people of our nation, it is time for us to move. Vote like your lives depend upon it because quite frankly, they do.

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