



A Union of Professionals

Additional Cabinet Nominees

MIKE POMPEO – CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR

Pompeo is a tea party Republican congressman representing Kansas' 4th District. He was a member of the House Select Committee on Benghazi; he is known for his “relentless” questioning of Hillary Clinton during her October 2015 appearance before the committee.¹ Pompeo’s appointment has been criticized by the Center for American Progress due to his inflammatory and racist characterizations of American Muslims. CAP cited his inflammatory rhetoric in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing: “After the Boston marathon bombing in 2013, Rep. Pompeo held American Muslim clerics and faith leaders collectively responsible for terrorism. Despite the fact that faith leaders had widely condemned the attacks, Pompeo alleged, ‘Their silence has made most Islamic leaders across America complicit in these acts.’”²

MICHAEL FLYNN – NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

Flynn is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general. After his retirement, he started a consulting firm that is reported to have lobbied for the government of Turkey.³ Flynn has repeatedly tweeted and retweeted conspiratorial and hateful material, including urging his followers to follow alt-right author Mike Cernovich.⁴ In February, Flynn tweeted “fear of Muslims is RATIONAL.”⁵ Flynn’s son, Michael Flynn Jr., was recently dismissed from the Trump transition team after his tweets promoting right-wing fake news—including the “Pizzagate” conspiracy—surfaced.⁶

JAMES MATTIS – SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mattis is a former United States Marine Corps general who previously served as the commander of the United States Central Command, a post he retired from in 2013. Due to his recent military involvement, Mattis must obtain a congressional waiver, as the National Security Act of 1947 requires that the secretary of defense be a civilian post.⁷ Mattis is known for his outspoken criticism of President Obama’s stated timeline to exit Afghanistan.⁸

ELAINE CHAO – SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

Chao served as the secretary of labor under George W. Bush. During her time at the Department of Labor, she allegedly “brought a thick dossier detailing union-related corruption to the 2003 AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting, and then read it aloud to the nation’s top labor leaders.”⁹ Transportation trades unions are reportedly not opposing Chao’s appointment.

Chao has been dismissive of American workers in the past. A 2007 *Parade* magazine article summarized Chao’s statements: “You could lose your job to a foreign worker—not because he’s cheaper but because he has better workplace skills and discipline. That’s the message Labor Secretary Elaine Chao hears from U.S. executives who are worried about America’s competitive future.”¹⁰

Chao is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. After leaving the Department of Labor, Chao served on the board of Wells Fargo, where a recent scandal involving the creation of phony accounts prompted the resignation of CEO John Stumpf.¹¹

K.T. MCFARLAND – DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

McFarland is a former Fox News analyst and served in the Reagan administration. As a Fox News commentator, McFarland praised Vladimir Putin, saying, “The world knows that Vladimir Putin is the one who really deserves that Nobel Peace Prize.”¹² McFarland has also repeatedly denigrated U.S. Muslims, claiming that “political correctness” is preventing the United States from discriminating against Muslims and “getting us killed.”¹³ She has also called for increased profiling of U.S. Muslims. Worries, McFarland has also expressed support for the use of torture.¹⁴

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TODD RICKETTS – DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

Ricketts, a co-owner of the Chicago Cubs, is the son of billionaire Joe Ricketts. The Ricketts family is extremely conservative and has spent millions of dollars on advertisements that painted President Obama as a “leftist radical influenced by the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.”¹⁵ After opposing Trump during the primary, Ricketts worked with Sheldon Adelson to fund Future 45, a pro-Trump super PAC.¹⁶

NIKKI HALEY – AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Haley, a Republican, was elected governor of South Carolina in the tea party wave of 2010.¹⁷ A rising star in the Republican Party, little is known of her views on international affairs. According to *Politico*, “Haley has never served in federal government. She also lacks obvious foreign policy experience, and little is known about her stance on contentious topics such as how to end the war in Syria.” She was one of 15 Republican governors who signed a letter of opposition against the Iran nuclear deal negotiated by the Obama administration.¹⁸

DONALD MCGAHN – WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL

McGahn is an attorney at Jones Day and the nephew of Patrick “Paddy” McGahn, “a local power broker and lawyer, who helped Trump cut deals that paved the way for him to open his Atlantic City casinos.”¹⁹ In 2008, Donald McGahn was appointed by George W. Bush to chair the Federal Election Commission, which the Republicans were trying to weaken at the time.²⁰

McGahn was formerly an attorney for the Koch brothers’ Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, a group created as a 501(c)6 business association to evade regulation by state attorneys general.²¹

JOHN KELLY – SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Kelly, a four-star general, retired in 2016 from the U.S. Marine Corps, where he was the head of U.S. Southern Command, which oversees the Guantanamo Bay military prison.²²

SCOTT PRUITT – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

Pruitt is the Oklahoma attorney general. The League of Conservation Voters, in a statement on his nomination to be head the EPA said:

“Scott Pruitt running the EPA is like the fox guarding the henhouse. Time and again, he has fought to pad the profits of Big Polluters at the expense of public health. He’s sued the EPA over commonsense safeguards like the Clean Water Rule and Clean Power Plan and sent letters to federal officials that were written almost entirely by the oil and gas industry. And like fellow Oklahoman Sen. Inhofe, Pruitt is an outright climate denier who has ignored settled science for political points.

“It’s often said that personnel is policy, and President-elect Trump’s decision to nominate someone who has spent his career catering to Big Polluters speaks volumes. The League of Conservation Voters strongly opposes this nomination and urges senators to vote against Scott Pruitt’s confirmation. All people in this country have a right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and enjoy the economic and health benefits of the clean energy revolution, and it’s vitally important that we have an EPA administrator who respects those rights.”²³

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/19/us/politics/donald-trump-mike-pompeo-cia.html?_r=0

² <https://www.americanprogress.org/press/statement/2016/11/18/292678/statement-caps-vikram-singh-on-rep-mike-pompeo-being-unfit-to-serve-as-director-of-the-cia/>

³ <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/donald-trump-turkey-lobbying-231354>

⁴ <http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/18/politics/kfile-flynn-tweets/>

⁵ <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2016/11/18/on-social-media-michael-flynn-criticized-clinton-muslim-immigration/>

⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38231532>

⁷ <http://thedianerehmshow.org/shows/2016-12-05/trumps-pick-for-defense-secretary-a-look-at-marine-gen-james-mattis>

⁸ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/12/06/james-mattis-white-house-counsel-donald-trump-defense-secretary-editorials-debates/94995334/>

⁹ <http://prospect.org/article/workers%E2%80%99-menace-becomes-commuters%E2%80%99-threat>

¹⁰ http://www.parade.com/articles/editions/2007/edition_07-01-2007/

¹¹ <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/timeline-wells-fargo-accounts-scandal/story?id=42231128>

¹² <http://mediamatters.org/blog/2013/09/10/fox-news-kt-mcfarland-vladimir-putin-is-the-one/195813>

¹³ <http://mediamatters.org/blog/2016/11/26/trumps-other-putin-praising-anti-muslim-national-security-pick-has-supported-torture-and-war-iran/214622>

¹⁴ <http://www.nationalmemo.com/k-t-mcfarland-anti-muslim-putin-fan-supports-torture/>

¹⁵ <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/05/remarkable-conflicted-ricketts-family-and-their-political-money/327982/>

¹⁶ <http://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleeder/archives/2016/10/25/can-cubs-fans-bleed-blue-while-seeing-red-over-the-ricketts-familys-support-of-trump>

¹⁷ <https://americanbridgepac.org/guide/nikki-haley/>

¹⁸ <http://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2015/sep/09/15-gop-governors-oppose-nuclear-deal>

¹⁹ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/charlestiefer/2016/11/25/new-trump-white-house-counsel-donald-mcgnahn-is-a-partisan-politico-consiglieri/#094913774dc>

²⁰ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/charlestiefer/2016/11/25/new-trump-white-house-counsel-donald-mcgnahn-is-a-partisan-politico-consiglieri/#094913774dc>

²¹ http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Freedom_Partners; <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/trump-koch-brothers-231863>

²² http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/john-kelly-dhs-secretary-trump_us_584832e5e4b08c82e8891a47

²³ <http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Pruitt-s-Nomination-for-EPA-Administrator.html>