



December 18, 2018

### **TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SHAKEUP PROVIDES GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY**

**Lord God, we pray for President Trump to select God-fearing men and women who will recognize that they are accountable to You for each decision and act.**

***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.  
(Pr 9:10)***

Mick Mulvaney showed up for a shutdown planning meeting with President Trump on Friday afternoon as his budget chief. Soon afterward, the president surprised the country — and apparently his own advisers — by tweeting that he had made Mr. Mulvaney his chief of staff.

It was classic Trump: announcing the biggest of moves in 280-character bites on Twitter and leaving his staff to play catch-up, working on the fly to carry out the surprise decision.

Less than 24 hours later, Mr. Trump struck again. He took to Twitter to detail the ouster of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who left under a cloud of ethics accusations and a Justice Department investigation.

“Ryan has accomplished much during his tenure and I want to thank him for his service to our Nation,” Mr. Trump tweeted. He said a replacement will be named this week.

The moves are part of a dizzying year-end shake-up as Mr. Trump retools the White House ahead of his confrontation with divided government in Washington....

The president has hinted that other staff changes are on the way, although he said that for the most part he “loves” his Cabinet secretaries.

Mr. Zinke was in the crosshairs for months.

The former congressman was dogged by scandals, including high-priced travel on government planes and reports of a shady land deal in his hometown of Whitefish, Montana, that involved the Zinke family and Halliburton Chairman David J. Lesar.

The Interior Department inspector general referred the land deal investigation to the Justice Department.

Mr. Zinke has denied any wrongdoing....

Environmentalists cheered Mr. Zinke's departure but were unhappy that Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, a former oil executive, would be stepping into the job even temporarily.

"Zinke will go down as the worst interior secretary in history," said Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity. "His slash-and-burn approach was absolutely destructive for public lands and wildlife. Allowing David Bernhardt to continue to call the shots will still be just as ugly. Different people, same appetite for greed and profit."

For the chief of staff position, Mr. Trump turned to Mr. Mulvaney after the job was declined by two other top contenders, Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, Nick Ayers, and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Mr. Mulvaney, a former House member from South Carolina, is one of Mr. Trump's most trusted lieutenants and has frequently been in the running for top administration jobs.

"Mick has done an outstanding job while in the administration," tweeted Mr. Trump. "I look forward to working with him in this new capacity as we continue to make America great again!"

He called Mr. Kelly "a great patriot."...

"Mick Mulvaney will not resign from the Office of Management and Budget but will spend all of his time devoted to his role as the acting chief of staff for the president. Russ Vought will handle day-to-day operations and run OMB," she said.

Soon after the announcement, a video emerged in which Mr. Mulvaney called Mr. Trump a "terrible human being."...

"Yes, I am supporting Donald Trump, but I'm doing so as enthusiastically as I can, given the fact that I think he's a terrible human being. But the choice on the other side is just as bad," said Mr. Mulvaney.

He made a similar comment on Twitter that was deleted when he took the OMB job, according to The New York Times.

Mr. Mulvaney has been doing double duty for the past year as chief of the Office of Management and Budget, which is the nerve center of the administration, and as acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau....

"If Trump was looking to bring more scandal into the White House, this last minute, sixth-string pick was the right choice," he said. (Excerpts from S.A. Miller article in [The Washington Times](#) - Alex Swoyer and Andrew Blake contributed to this report.)

## **PRAY ABOUT BORDER WALL AND POTENTIAL GOVT SHUTDOWN**

**Father, we pray that our leaders, especially President Trump and Senator Schumer and Representative Pelosi, would have godly wisdom, knowledge, and understanding about the border wall and the management of government moving forward.**

***If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)***

A stalemate over funding for a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border could force a partial government shutdown Friday. Lawmakers have not been able to pass a spending bill in either chamber of Congress. The White House wants \$5 billion allocated to building the wall, while Democrats have offered no more than \$1.6 billion for fencing upgrades and have suggested keeping funding at its current level of \$1.3 billion. Republican-proposed solutions, including a stopgap bill, also have not gained traction.

Amid the back-and-forth, the House took a six-day weekend and won't reconvene until Wednesday, giving Republicans a narrow window of time in which to pass the budget before the shutdown deadline. President Donald Trump said last week in a meeting with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., that he would be "proud" to accept a shutdown if his request of \$5 billion for the wall was not met. Schumer vowed Sunday that the president "is not going to get the wall in any form."...

An NPR/Marist poll taken about two weeks ago found that 57 percent of all Americans say the president should compromise on the border wall. But 65 percent of Republicans say the opposite.

A shutdown would affect about one-quarter of the government, including the departments of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Justice, State, and Transportation. (Excerpts from Harvest Prude article in [WORLD](#))

## **FEDERAL COURT BLOCKS TRUMP ADMIN RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION**

**Please continue to pray over our federal judicial court system. Do you have a passion to pray for pro-life issues? Check out [iPRAYforLIFE](#), our newest initiative.**

***For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. (Mat 7:2)***

A federal appeals court blocked the Trump administration's religious and moral exceptions to the Obamacare birth control mandate from being implemented in five states.

On Thursday, a split three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld a preliminary injunction by the district court. Judges John Clifford Wallace, a Richard Nixon nominee, and Susan Graber, an appointee of Bill Clinton, upheld the district court's ruling.

The decision allows the states of California, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, and New York to ignore the Trump administration's rules that protect employers with religious or moral objections to abortion-inducing drugs and birth control from being forced to provide them to workers. . . . Planned Parenthood celebrated the ruling . . . .

In November, Trump's Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury issued two rules intended to protect those with religious or moral objections to Obamacare's mandate for most employers to provide abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives, or sterilization procedures – free of charge – to employees via health insurance plans.

The first rule provided an exemption from the contraceptive coverage mandate to entities that object to services covered by the mandate on the basis of faith beliefs. The second final rule provided protections to nonprofit organizations and small businesses that have non-religious, moral convictions opposing the services covered by the mandate.

The religious and conscience exemptions provided by these rules also applied to institutions of education, issuers, and individuals. The rules were scheduled to go into effect at the start of 2019.

The Trump administration can now petition the Supreme Court to take up the case.

The case is *California v. Azar*, No. 18-15166, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. ([Breitbart](#))

### **I CALLED NANCY PELOSI'S OFFICE AND . . .**

*"I wanted to let you know that I called Nancy Pelosi's number as you asked intercessors to do to thank her for praying for wisdom. A lady answered and I asked her to thank Nancy for mentioning the need to pray for wisdom. I also told her I would be praying for Nancy. **This lady began to cry and thanked me for calling... Pat**"*

What an amazing reaction from a clip we found last week of Nancy Pelosi talking about the importance of prayer and asking God for wisdom. We certainly do not know her intentions, nor are we under any illusions that she stands for biblical values. But, we saw this as an opportunity to reach out and let her know that prayer is important to us and we appreciated her talking about it.

We then asked a group of intercessors who have emailed their elected officials to call Congresswoman Pelosi's office to thank her for talking about prayer and the importance of godly wisdom for our nation's leaders. Over 50 intercessors called her office! Some were directed immediately to voice mail and some left messages with staff.

**Please pray for the staffer mentioned above who responded with tears!** God must have been touching her heart. Pray that God would give Nancy Pelosi true wisdom and if these are empty words, they would become full by the work of the Holy Spirit.

**VIDEO:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1g09gOtULVY>

