

John Owen Sinks to New Low to Retain MCGOP Chair

The events of the last couple of weeks offer compelling reasons why MCGOP Chair John Owen is held in such distrust and distain by many members of his own party.

With the March 24th MCGOP convention rapidly approaching, Owen was desperate. Potential delegate votes were mounting against him. One precinct where he had hoped to find strong support was George Little's precinct called Pinedene. When Elizabeth Kelly emerged victorious, as precinct Chair, John panicked. He used a silly complaint by one confused Pinedene resident to actually throw out the results of the precinct meeting. When Elizabeth filed a complaint with NCGOP, John Owen knew he was on very thin ice and eventually reversed his on ridiculous ruling.

Sensing defeat, John resorted to the unthinkable. He actually arranged a meeting between himself and minister of Mrs. Kelly's church, Calvary Memorial. He met with Pastor Garrison, along with at least one of the church's elders. John was accompanied on this unholy mission by Morganite Bill Thurman. Their goal was to get devoted Christian, Elizabeth Kelly, to resign as precinct chair.

Exact accounts of this meeting are unavailable. John admitted, in an open letter to GOP voters, that he suggested the church and its Christian School could see the "IRS brought into the conflict".

The always honorable and devout Mrs. Kelly did resign her Pinedene Chair in order to not to further subject the church to John Owen's seemingly bottomless tactics.

Not satisfied with Mrs. Kelly's noble gesture, Owen and his unscrupulous supporters decided to further persecute Calvary Memorial Church. They enlisted the efforts of Walter Bull, the publisher of an inactive gazette called the Sandhills Pulse. Mr. Bull's inactive gazette had stopped publishing in November from lack of interest and funding. Mr. Bull is commonly known to be an Owen supporter.

"Miraculously", Mr. Bull found, with a little help from his Morganite friends, the funding to publish this appalling, yet timely issue. In this issue he compared Mrs. Kelly to Martha Stewart, suggested that Elizabeth might have "serious trouble with State and Federal agencies" and implied that the church may have violated its tax exempt status.

Bull went on to imply that Mrs. Kelly was operating improperly from the church and utilizing church facilities in violation of the rules for a tax exempt organization. Walter stammered on and even had an awkward account of a GOP meeting at Russell's Fish & Seafood House. Bull reported that John Owen considered Mrs. Kelly's actions, regarding handling of money for this meeting to be "criminal in nature". The owner of the restaurant insists all monies owed were paid in full.

Bull staggered on incoherently with various charges and outrageous implications while offering no evidence to substantiate any of his ridiculous accusations. The entire blasphemous account was nothing short of a disgrace to local Republicans and to the entire Moore County community.

Regrettably, this new low in local politics appeared to have achieved Owen's self serving goal. At Saturday's (March 24th) MCGOP convention, delegates stayed home in droves. Only 216 out of 279 delegates were seated. Owen selected his supporter George Little to Chair the convention. George had his brother-in-law as parliamentarian. Talk about a stacked deck! Little did his best to do what he was, no doubt, asked to do. That being to run rough shod over Owen's" competition! Little, in overtly pompous and arrogant fashion, attempted to close the nominations for Chair after John Owen's nomination. Terry Ritter, of High Falls, was yelling at the top of his lungs that he wanted to nominate Jed Taylor. Loyal Republican Bob Zschoche exclaimed that Little was in violation of Robert's Rules of Order! Others protested, but George Little continued to ignore them! Finally "the People's Choice", Joe Boylan, rose to his feet and accused George Little of trying to "railroad the convention". This righteous gesture by our new NC House representative drew thunderous applause from the frustrated delegates in attendance. Mr. Boylan then took it upon himself to see that the convention had a modicum of fair play and nominated Ged Taylor himself!

Unfortunately, the die was cast. The well below capacity delegation narrowly reelected John Owen. "Loyal Republicans" were left shaking their heads at the lack of attendance from critical precincts. Some speculated that Owen's unfathomable tactics had sickened many "Loyal Republican". Others just shook their heads in dismay.

A couple of things emerged clearly from the raucous convention. One, our new representative, Joe Boylan, is every bit the man of courage and principle that Moore County voters had thought he would be. Joe stood tall when George Little and John Owen were at their worst. Without Joe's heroic stand, Loyal Republicans wouldn't even have had a chance to vote for their guy, Ged Taylor.

Secondly, John Owen is even more unscrupulous, underhanded and self serving than most of had even dared to imagine!

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