

Cato Policy Report

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“To Be Governed...”

PEOPLE IN ALL THOSE COUNTRIES FLOCK TO AMERICAN CULTURE

Now, more than ever, we need a secretary of arts and culture. . . .

The United Kingdom has a culture secretary. Canada calls the job minister of Canadian heritage. France employs a culture minister; South Africa, a minister of arts and culture; Vietnam, a minister of culture, sports and tourism; Australia, a minister for communications, cyber safety and the arts. More than 50 nations designate an official in the top ranks of government whose portfolio includes nurturing artistic endeavors.

—Peter Marks, *Washington Post*,
December 2, 2020

EXTREMELY PREDICTABLE

As the C.D.C. considers vaccine priority, companies and groups nationwide have been telling the federal agency why they should be part of the next wave of vaccinations. Agricultural workers, from rice farmers to hog farmers, have jockeyed for priority, as have trade associations representing school nurses, truck drivers, morticians and even zookeepers.

—*New York Times*, December 20, 2020

Companies across America—from Amazon and Uber to railroads and meatpacking plants—are lobbying states and the federal government to prioritize their workers for early immunization against the coronavirus amid limited supplies of the vaccine.

—*Washington Post*, December 20, 2020

THANKS, SANTA!

With an average family of four receiving over \$20,000 in direct aid, on top of billions

in dollars for relief, President Trump and Congressional Republicans were able to deliver for families and small businesses in the year-end COVID-19 relief and additional spending package. . . .

Thanks to the President's leadership, his priorities which made it into the final package include . . .

- Main Street Support: Billions more in PPP funding was approved.
- Vaccine Distribution: Billions for shipping and distributing vaccines to American seniors and families was included in the bipartisan agreement.
- Stopping Reckless Socialist Policies.

—Republicans on House Ways and Means Committee, December 23, 2020

STILL SWAMPY

Incoming White House counselor Steve Ricchetti, a top Biden campaign adviser, previously co-owned a lobbying firm, Ricchetti Inc., with his brother, Jeff, who continues to run the operation.

Business appears to be good. Since Biden secured the Democratic nomination, Jeff Ricchetti has registered to lobby Congress for seven new clients, compared with just six new clients in the previous eight years, according to public disclosures.

—*Washington Post*, December 14, 2020

FOLLOW THE RED INK ROAD

“We do need to worry about balancing the budget down the road,” said Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.). But, she added, “right now, we need to be investing in our economy.”

—*Washington Post*, December 22, 2020

HOW REGULATION CREATES JOBS

Amazon, Facebook, Google and four other top technology giants spent more than \$65 million to lobby the U.S. government last year, shelling out record-breaking amounts in some cases to try to battle back antitrust scrutiny and new regulatory threats.

—*Washington Post*, January 22, 2021

MAYBE—HEAR ME OUT— WE SHOULDN'T GIVE THOSE KNAVES AND FOOLS SO MUCH POWER

In fantasy worlds, a nation may be led by its best: a noble king, full of courage and wisdom and love for all his people, who bears the weighty burden of rule because no one else could do it better. That's not how things usually work in the real world, where for every virtuous leader there are a hundred mediocrities, knaves and fools.

—Paul Waldman, *Washington Post*,
January 19, 2021

YEAH, THAT'S THE TICKET

After watching in horror at the ways President Donald Trump wielded the power of the executive, progressives say they are eager for Biden to do the same.

—*Politico*, January 11, 2021

SHE'S TAKING ON THE SCHOOLS AND THE POST OFFICE

Senator Klobuchar to Write Antitrust Book/The Minnesota Democrat and former presidential candidate said her book would call for reform in how the United States treats monopolies and competition.

—*New York Times*, January 11, 2021