

THE Skanner

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The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published every Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc.

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The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

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Opinion

This Is Why Trump Is Lying about Voter Fraud and Crime

There are two subjects in particular that the Trump Administration lies about the most: crime and voting.

During a recent interview on "This Week" with George Stephanopoulos, President Trump's senior advisor Stephen Miller lied about voter fraud during the 2016 elections.

Miller said that, "And you have 14 percent of noncitizens, according to academic research, at a minimum, are registered to vote, which is an astonishing statistic."

That statement is simply false. Miller couldn't produce a single shred of evidence when Stephanopoulos pressed him on the subject.

But Miller was just repeating what his boss said shortly before the election.

At a rally in Cleveland, Ohio on Oct. 23, 2016, presidential candidate Donald Trump said that, "14 percent of noncitizens are registered to vote."

President Trump entered office lying about voter fraud and threatening an investigation.

Civil rights leaders have called for an investigation of voter suppression during the 2016 presidential election. More recently, the lying crossed over into the topic of an increased "crime wave"



Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Columnist

that doesn't exist. Now, the lies about a vast American crime wave and record levels of illegal voting seem to be coming together.

On Jan. 23, during a meeting with members of Congress and the White House, President Trump lied about voting again.

Trump and his 31-year-old aide Stephen Miller, who was sent out on all the Sunday

“The Trump Administration would appear to be laying the groundwork to justify a new law that would make it harder for people to vote

morning talk shows on February 12, appear to be lying for two reasons. First, Trump can't come to terms with the fact that Hillary Clinton received almost three million more votes than he did, and second, the Trump Administration would appear to be laying the groundwork to justify a new law that would make it harder for people to vote, particularly minorities.

Trump's Attorney General, former Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions, had a history of prosecuting African Americans, who were registering too many other African Americans to vote as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Having provided no explanation or apology for his past prosecutions, particularly that of the late Albert Turner Sr., there's no reason to believe that Sessions won't pick up where he left off in Alabama in the 1970s.

Even though, Sessions' past statements and actions as a prosecutor in Alabama are clear, the public perception of Sessions the man is mixed. Turner's son, Albert Turner, Jr., issued a statement endorsing Sessions that said, "I believe that he is someone with whom I, and others in the civil rights community can work if given the opportunity."

Still, American history of the disenfranchisement of African American (and other minority) voters is also clear. In the late 1800s, it was a poll tax, literacy tests and other requirements that Black voters were unlikely to meet. Today

it's voter ID, closing polling places, cutting Sunday voting and purging voting rolls.

The continued strategy used by present day Republicans is still the "Southern Strategy" — they've just added Hispanics to the list of targets. The Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids started only two days after Attorney General Sessions was sworn in.

"The crackdown on illegal criminals is merely the keeping of my campaign promise. Gang members, drug dealers & others are being removed!" Trump tweeted on February 12.

Trump tweeted about his "crackdown on illegal criminals" a day after El Paso ICE spokeswoman in El Paso Leticia Zamarripa stated that, "ICE regularly conducts targeted enforcement operations during which additional resources and personnel are dedicated to apprehending deportable foreign nationals."

Many immigrant rights advocates knew the raids were not routine before anyone communicated anything.

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Civil Rights Will Suffer under AG Sessions

Donald Trump's first weeks in office have left Americans reeling from what Republican speechwriter Peggy Noonan called his "cloud of crazy." His cabinet nominees seem intentionally perverse: an education secretary who has no clue about public schools; an energy secretary who wanted to eliminate the department; a treasury secretary from Goldman Sachs who ran a home foreclosure factory. So when a White nationalist sympathizer, Sen. Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III, was confirmed to be Attorney General, it passed by as just another absurdity.

The coverage of the confirmation battle focused primarily on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's outrageous muzzling of Sen. Elizabeth Warren as she tried to read a 1986 letter from Coretta Scott King criticizing Sessions.

The muzzling was an unforgivable indignity. Lost in the furor was the thrust of King's letter. She was writing to urge the Republican-led Senate of the time to reject President Reagan's nomination of Sessions to the federal bench because he had "used the power of his office as U.S. attorney to intimidate and chill the free exercise of the



Rev. Jesse Jackson
NNPA Columnist

ballot." Sessions had opposed the Voting Rights Act, made racist statements and falsely prosecuted Black civil rights leaders seeking to register people to vote in Alabama. He

“By confirming Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) to serve as the next Attorney General, Donald Trump and the Republican Senate put in office someone who is committed to undermining that Constitution

was an ardent and unrelenting opponent of civil rights. The Republican Senate rejected his nomination.

Sessions views have not changed. He opposed Supreme Court decisions striking down laws banning homosexual sex and same-sex marriage. He voted against equal pay for women and against reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, and he argued that it would be a "stretch" to call grabbing a woman's genitals — as the

in voting to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2006, he gave a speech declaring its enforcement sections unconstitutional. When the Supreme Court's conservative gang of five gutted the law, he praised their decision, saying preposterously, "(If you go to Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, people aren't being denied the vote because of the color of their skin."

Even as he was saying that, states across the South were preparing a raft of laws to

make voting more difficult for African Americans and the young. Striking down the voter ID law in North Carolina, the federal appeals court found that the new provisions "target African Americans with almost surgical precision," while providing "inapt remedies" for an alleged problem of voter fraud that is nonexistent.

Now Sessions will take his states' rights views to the Justice Department. He will have more power than George Wallace ever had. Wallace had state power. Sessions has national power with a state agenda, with thousands of lawyers under his command. He will help shape the Supreme Court. And simply by inaction — by refusing to enforce the Voting Rights Act as states act to restrict voting — he can do more to undermine civil rights than Wallace could by standing in the schoolhouse door.

Every senator who voted for this nomination shares the shame. He is in position to poison the well of justice for a long time.

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