“An incredible partner when I needed one the most”

Barack Obama endorses Joe Biden for President

By Jacob Crosse
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Former President Barack Obama formally endorsed his Vice President of 8 years, Joe Biden in a 12 minute video posted Tuesday morning across various social media platforms. The endorsement of Biden by Obama is not a surprise or a shock, he is essentially endorsing himself. Obama's video follows Vermont senator Bernie Sanders' joint online event with Biden yesterday in a coordinated effort by the party intended to sell the candidacy of Biden, a loyal servant of Wall Street and the CIA his entire political career, as a progressive champion of all decent, hard-working and moral people.

In his endorsement of Biden, Obama peppered his speech with his usual smattering of cliches and empty platitudes meant to beguile a record of reaction and subservience to the ruling class. Reading from the same script Sanders used yesterday during his similar hagiographic spectacle, Obama heaped praise on “an incredible partner” and “close friend.” While the whole video was an exercise in deception, hot air, and half-truths, one is struck by the coordinated line, put forth by Sanders, and echoed by Obama, that the candidacy of Joe Biden, a right-wing creature of the establishment for over 40 years, can somehow be transformed into progressive vehicle for social and economic change.

“Choosing Joe to be my Vice President was one of the best decisions I ever made, and he became a close friend. And I believe Joe has all the qualities we need in a President right now.”

One should recall that Obama’s selection of Biden as his Vice President following the 2008 primary was a gesture from Obama to the ruling class, that despite his anti-war and “hope and change” rhetoric, there would be no encroachment on the wealth and privilege of the oligarchy, nor an ending of US imperialist wars. Or as Joe Biden put it himself when speaking to major party donors at a January 2019 New York fundraiser in preparation for his presidential run, “nothing would fundamentally change.”

While Obama presented the facade of neutrality during the primary, the wrapping up of the contests has revealed the extent to which the former President acted as a “kingmaker” behind the scenes. Beginning last fall during a private dinner with the billionaire-George Soros founded Democracy Alliance, Obama criticized Sanders and his so-called “revolutionary” policies while speaking to the elite of the party. Obama further opined that voters did not want to “tear down the system.”

Obama was also instrumental in the weaning of the democratic field prior to the Super Tuesday primary; advising CIA asset, and former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttegieg to drop out and support Biden, which prompted a flood of support and endorsements from the Democratic party establishment including Minnesota senator Amy Klobuchar, former Texas congressman Robert ‘Beto’ O’Rourke and Virginia senator and Hillary Clinton’s 2016 nominee for Vice President, Tim Kaine.

In the months leading up to his campaign suspension, Obama held several conversations with Sanders himself, urging the senator to drop out of the race in an attempt to, in Obama’s words to, “accelerate the endgame” and avoid a protracted primary. Being the loyal party servant, Sanders played his role, pilfering millions of dollars’ worth of donations to him and the Democratic party before folding his campaign and
Obama began his prepared remarks by acknowledging the COVID-19 crisis and paying lip service to “the medical professionals putting their lives on the line battling this disease,” as well as the “workers taking risks every day to keep our economy running.” Echoing Sanders' call for “unity,” Obama implored viewers not to “look back” on Biden and his shared criminal record in the White House. This record includes the expansion of the US global war on terror, the arming of al-Qaeda terrorists in Syria, the selling of billions of dollars’ worth in arms to Saudi Arabia to fuel a genocidal war against the civilian population of Yemen and the expansion of the Immigration Customs and Enforcement detention centers of which thousands of men, women and children are now being exposed to COVID-19.

“Joe was there as we rebuilt from the Great Recession and rescued the American auto industry ... That’s why I asked him to implement the Recovery Act, which saved millions of jobs and got people back on their feet, because Joe gets stuff done.”

Far from rescuing the auto industry and saving “millions of jobs,” the bailout of General Motors laid the groundwork for further attacks on the supposed high wages and “Cadillac” benefits US autoworkers earned through years of struggle. The Obama-Biden administration appointed Steven Rattner, formerly of Lehman Brothers and Morgan Stanely, ‘czar’ of the task force in charge of working side-by-side with the UAW in excising at least 36,000 jobs, eliminating the eight hour work day and ending company-paid retiree health benefits.

Prior to the recently passed and misnamed CARES act, the $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was the largest transfer of wealth in the history of the US from the working class to the super-rich. The proliferation of the “gig” economy which forces workers to labor at several low-paying, part-time, contract jobs boomed throughout the Obama-Biden "recovery." An estimated 10 million people, including families with children, lost their homes following the recession. This, Obama wants us to believe, is part of the “incredible progress that we made together during my presidency.”

Obama also touted his and Biden’s administration’s alleged competency in relation to the handling of global pandemics such as the H1N1 flu and the Ebola outbreak. What Obama fails to mention is that the reason so many health care workers are “risking their lives” currently without proper safety equipment is because it was under his and Biden’s watch that the Strategic National Stockpile of N95 masks was depleted but never replenished.

In addition to a severe shortage of personal protective equipment, as was first reported in the New York Times, it was under the Obama-Biden administration that Coviden was allowed to buy up a Newport Medical Instruments, producers of a new low-cost ventilator and renege on the $6.1 million government contract, preventing 40,000 additional ventilators from being constructed and added to the stockpile. A Biden presidency, just like Obama’s, will not interfere on the side of public health when the interests of capital are concerned.

Demonstrating Biden and Obama’s fealty to profits before health, Obama touted his, again misnamed, “Affordable Care Act,” as an accomplishment, despite that fact over 30 million people within the US still are without insurance, and those that do have it can testify to its lack of affordability. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the folly of having employer-based healthcare coverage, as nearly 30 million people have lost their jobs and are at risk of losing what lackluster coverage they have.

Finally, Obama ended his endorsement with a call for “Americans of all political stripes to get involved in our politics and our public life like never before,” and to “join us, join Joe.”

There is no us, there are those who must sell their labor to survive and there are those who profit off the exploitation of that labor. The Democratic party, the oldest bourgeois capitalist party in the world stands in opposition to the needs and interests of the vast majority of the population.

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