



Who Sylvia Matthews Burwell is, and Why You Should Care!

OVERVIEW IN BRIEF:

Obamacare is a mess and Congress is demanding answers and solutions. So it's no surprise that Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has stepped down. But her replacement wasn't chosen for her skills in administration or medicine.

Sylvia Matthews Burwell is Obama's pick to replace Sebelius. Running in the inner circle of political elitesⁱ, Burwell has implemented the funding of population control programs, stonewalled Congress and ordered the shutdown of national parks, visitors' centers and even the "panda-cam" at the National Zoo. Burwell's skillset as a master of smokescreens, whose allegiance to the hard left is unquestioned, makes her not just the obvious choice for Obama's credibility-challenged administration, but really his only choice.

Stonewalling Congress

As the Director for the Office of Management and Budget, Burwell met with the Congressional Budget Committee on March 5 of this year. During the session, Burwell adamantly refused to answer simple questions about Obama's plans to increase spending by \$56 billion more than the law allows.ⁱⁱ Over the course of several minutes, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) asked Burwell over 10 times whether or not Obama's plans raised spending \$56 billion over the legal limit, and each time, Burwell dodged the question with attempts to either qualify or explain the spending hike. When asked for a simple yes or no answer, Burwell's response was "Senator, I think there are some questions that are not simple yes or no questions."

During her April 2013 confirmation hearings, Burwell refused to answer questions regarding whether the Obama administration would submit a budget to Congress that balances in ten years, and whether the administration would begin complying with oversight deadlines required of the Office of Management and Budget.ⁱⁱⁱ

WOULD YOU HIRE SOMEONE WHO ...

- Refused to answer questions during a job interview?
(Burwell dodged questions during her confirmation hearings in 2013.)
- Was criticized for consistently and adamantly refusing to answer direct questions with direct answers?
(Burwell refused to answer questions to the Congressional Budget Committee regarding the administration's overspending.)
- Used her position to score partisan political points at the expense of the taxpayers?
(Burwell ordered the closing of national parks, museums and memorials in order to leverage Congress to agree to the Obama administration's budgetary wants.)
- Rose to political prominence by suppressing the poor?
(Burwell spent 10 years climbing the Gates Foundation's corporate ladder for a population control program)

Closing National Parks and Memorials

In a memo dated September 30, 2013^{iv}, Burwell, in her capacity as Director of the Office of Management and Budget, ordered the execution of plans already in place for the closing of national parks, museums, monuments, and other federally-maintained and operated locations. Burwell made clear in her memo that she was using her position as a fulcrum to leverage pressure on Congress to give in to the demands of the Obama administration:

*Appropriations provided under the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-6) expire at 11:59 pm tonight. Unfortunately, we do not have a clear indication that Congress will act in time for the President to sign a Continuing Resolution before the end of the day tomorrow, October 1, 2013. **Therefore, agencies should now execute plans for an orderly shutdown due to the absence of appropriations. We urge Congress to act quickly to pass a Continuing Resolution to provide a short-term bridge that ensures sufficient time to pass a budget for the remainder of the fiscal year, and to restore the operation of critical public services and programs that will be impacted by a lapse in appropriations.***

As a direct result of Burwell's order, national parks around the country were closed and patrolled by armed guards, national museums were closed to the public, and even World War II veterans had to break through barricades in order to visit their memorial.^v

Coordinating Population Control Funds

From 2001 until December 2011, Burwell served several roles at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, including as president of its Global Development Program. Its Global Development Program coordinates the Microsoft billionaires' "family planning"^{vi} efforts around the world, much of it funding Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion "philanthropies." Between 1998 and 2012, the Gates Foundation gave:

- International Planned Parenthood Federation \$41,876,150. This includes more than \$20 million in 2007 alone.^{vii}
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America \$12,984,000.^{viii}
- The UN Fund for Population Activities and Americans for UNFPA \$56,681,272 in 2000.^{ix}
- An indirect grant to UNFPA of \$2.2 billion^x for "reproductive health," although the UNFPA is complicit in China's one child policy of forced abortion and sterilization^{xi}.

Under Burwell's watch, the Gates Foundation became a corporate partner of the population control organization, Pathfinder International.^{xii} Pathfinder International states that "access to abortion services is not only a public health imperative, it is also every woman's right."^{xiii} Its population reduction efforts are concentrated exclusively in the Global South.

Loyalty and Cover-Ups

In the 1990's, Burwell was Bill Clinton's deputy chief of staff, and like a loyal dog, played fetch and retrieve when Clinton found himself in trouble. For instance, in 1993, while assistant to Clinton's domestic policy advisor, Burwell claimed to have "inventoried" former Chief of Staff Vince Foster's office trashcan, looking "for some clue to why he killed himself."^{xiv} Even though Burwell testified that while she did not discover anything that would have shed any light on Foster's death, she did "managed to retrieve a special bag of garbage containing classified and sensitive papers that was usually destroyed by the Secret Service. The contents of

that bag were never examined by anyone to see if Mr. Foster had left anything in it that might shed light on his state of mind.”^{xv} Of course, since the bag of contents was later destroyed, there’s no way of verifying what she did or did not find. Be that as it may, Burwell’s loyalty to the Clinton administration rapidly propelled her through the ranks, moving from assistant to the domestic policy advisor to chief of staff at the Treasury Department by the time she testified on the Foster death in 1995.

Conclusion

Sylvia Matthews Burwell’s public record is a testimony in and of itself to her character. Given her strong support for population control programs, it’s clear that as HHS Secretary, she will be more than comfortable enforcing the contraceptive mandate already in place. And given how willing she was to abuse the power of her office while Director for the Office of Management and Budget, there’s no reason to believe she would not also be willing to expand the mandate to include abortion as well. But most troubling of all is the ease with which she dodges the simplest questions while plugging the programs under her charge.

ⁱ Sylvia Burwell served on the board of directors of the Council on Foreign Relations in 2011 and in 2013.

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/images/CFRCorpBrochure_Feb11.pdf
www.cfr.org/content/publications/CFR-Corporate-Brochure-2013.pdf

ⁱⁱ Video clip of Burwell refusing to answer Senator Jeff Sessions’ direct and simple questions
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_GI33A4sRU

ⁱⁱⁱ Washington Examiner, “Sylvia Matthews Burell: Obama’s behind-the-scenes budget warrior”, Oct. 4, 2013
<http://washingtonexaminer.com/sylvia-matthews-burwell-obamas-behind-the-scenes-budget-warrior/article/2536659>

^{iv} White House memo from September 30, 2013, signed by Burwell:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2013/m-13-24.pdf>

^v ABC News, “World War II Veterans Cross Memorial Barricades Despite Shutdown,” Oct. 1, 2013
<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/world-war-ii-veterans-cross-memorial-barricades-shutdown/story?id=20432719>

^{vi} Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Global Development Program
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do>

^{vii} In 2007, the Foundation gave \$22 million to Planned Parenthood
<https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/2007-foundation-form-990-pf-public-disclosure.pdf>

^{viii} In 2009, the Foundation gave nearly \$5.5 million to Planned Parenthood
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/about/Documents/bmgf-2009-990pf.pdf>

^{ix} Life Site News, “UN Population Fund Receives \$57 million from Gates,” April 5, 2000
<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/archive//ldn/2000/apr/00040504>

^x Gates Foundation, “UN Population Fund Hails Bill and Melinda Gates’ \$2.2 Billion Donation to Fund Population and Health Activities Worldwide”

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases/1999/02/AboutUsPR990211>

^{xi} Life Site News, “Obama Promises to Fund Coercive China One-Child Policy Collaborator UNFPA,” Jan. 26, 2009
<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/obama-promises-to-fund-coercive-china-one-child-policy-collaborator-unfpa>

^{xii} Pathfinder International announces its partnership with Gates Foundation
<http://www.pathfinder.org/about-us/our-partners/corporate-foundation-partners/foundation-partners/bill-and-melinda-gates-foundation.html>

^{xiii} Pathfinder International’s website statement on abortion
<http://www.pathfinder.org/our-work/focus-areas/abortion/>

^{xiv} LA Times, “Search of Foster’s Office Is Revealed : Whitewater: White House aide tells Senate panel she sought suicide note after deputy counsel’s death. She denies interfering with probe,” July 26, 1995 http://articles.latimes.com/1995-07-26/news/mn-28054_1_white-house

^{xv} New York Times, “No Intention to Question First Lady,” July 26, 1995 <http://www.nytimes.com/1995/07/26/us/no-intention-to-question-first-lady.html>