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KILLING NAFTA

• Trump eyes process to end massive trade agreement

By Mark Anderson

Trade representatives from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico met in Mexico City, Nov. 17-21, to negotiate for the fifth time what will become of the infamous North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). From the start, the Trump administration has been firm in its intent is to pull the U.S. out of the job-robbing deal. Following the meeting, the option for the U.S. to withdraw from NAFTA is still on the table, though all possibilities will become clearer as 2018 arrives.

NAFTA is a widely reviled treaty signed into law in 1994 by President Bill Clinton after the pact's initiation by his fellow world-government architect, President George H. W. Bush.

Last spring, newly confirmed U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer sent a notification letter to Congress about the Trump administration's intent to renegotiate NAFTA. With that notification, Lighthizer becomes the first USTR to renegotiate any major U.S. free-trade agreement.

Before his appointment to USTR, Lighthizer had been a fierce critic of unfettered free trade. Now, considering his legal background and the



pivotal status of the 2017 NAFTA talks under his direction, Lighthizer is well-positioned to upend the stubborn status quo surrounding trade policy. The deal may not hold sway against the nation's discernable populist revival—which the transnationalists in charge of the usurious, rigged monetary and trade systems cannot seem to extinguish.

“During these negotiating rounds, the United States has put forward . . . new text in 27 chapters of NAFTA. The Trump administration remains committed to moving expeditiously toward a deal for fair, reciprocal

trade for America's workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses,” explained a USTR news bulletin released Nov. 17. Rather than “free” trade, it stressed “fair” trade, which is a more populist view and typically translates into calls for balanced trade. This means that imports and exports would equalize on a per-nation basis, thereby avoiding or minimizing trade deficits.

The White House's official statement on trade, posted on its website, reflects a tough stance on the president's part, while also reflecting the views of Lighthizer—whose credentials include his work at the noted Skadden law firm in Washington. He practiced international trade law there for more than 30 years, representing American workers and businesses (manufacturing, financial services, agriculture, and technology).

At Skadden, Lighthizer worked to expand markets for U.S. exports and defended U.S. industries from

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THE INSIDE SCOOP



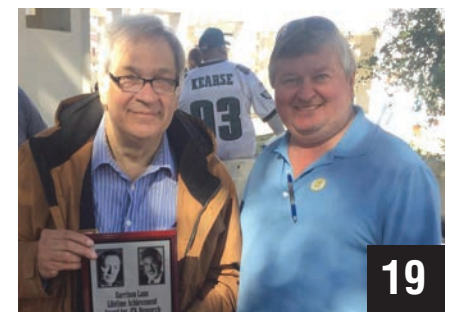
Congress pressured to pass laws restricting freedom of speech.

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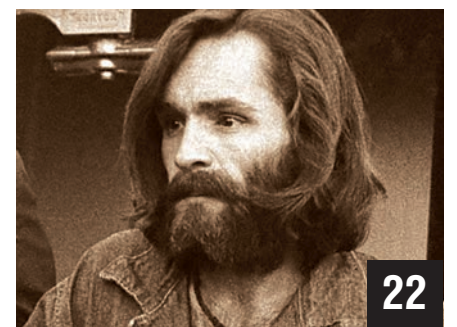
Hate labeling used to stifle all criticism of the state of Israel.

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Longtime JFK assassination scholar gets lifetime achievement award.

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Death of notorious cult leader opens door to new revelations.

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