

The Delray Democrat

How Trump Is Losing¹

Michael K. Cantwell

Here's how the Honorable John Coughenour, a federal judge appointed by Ronald Reagan, responded to a Trump flunky's insistence that Trump's executive order canceling birthright citizenship was constitutional: Frankly, I have difficulty understanding how a member of the Bar could state unequivocally that this is a constitutional order. It just boggles my mind.

Issuing a nation-wide injunction, Coughenour noted: "I've been on the bench for over four decades, I can't remember another case where the question presented is as clear as this one is. This is a blatantly unconstitutional order. There are other times in world history where we look back and people of goodwill can say where were the judges, where were the lawyers?"

Closing USAID. Another federal judge, this one a Trump appointee, temporarily enjoined him from placing USAID employees on leave. Some evangelical leaders have characterized the attempted closure as "damaging and wasteful." Moreover, and this is something of which Trump is probably unaware, USAID purchases \$2B in agricultural products from American farmers, who lose these sales.

Freezing Spending. Facing protests, Trump rescinded his executive order freezing all federal grants and loans.

Tariffs. He announced, delayed, and then imposed tariffs on Canada and Mexico. And the chaos and uncertainty he is introducing is already spooking Wall Street and will spike inflation.

Access by Musk to Treasury Records. Judge Paul Engelmayer enjoined access to these sensitive records and ordered the destruction of anything that had previously been accessed. Some He now faces impeachment, which will fail.

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), February 2025, page 6.