

Brandon Lewis:

Hello, this is Brandon.

Secretary Pompeo:

Hi Brandon, Mike Pompeo speaking.

Brandon Lewis:

How are you, sir?

Secretary Pompeo:

Doing great.

Brandon Lewis:

Outstanding. Well, I'm ready to go whenever you are.

Secretary Pompeo:

Ready to go.

Brandon Lewis:

All right. So what I'm going to do is just do a very brief little introduction here and we'll record it and I'll try to get it out on as many platforms as I can.

Secretary Pompeo:

That sounds fantastic. Thank you, sir.

Brandon Lewis:

All right, here we go. Hello everyone. I'm Brandon Lewis, founder of the Tennessee Conservative, today we are joined by Secretary Mike Pompeo via phone who served under President Donald Trump as director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2017 to 2018, and as the 70th United States Secretary of State from 2018 to '21. Pompeo is a former US Congressman from Kansas and served as a United States Army officer. Secretary Pompeo, it's an honor to have you and we miss you. We miss you and you're [crosstalk 00:00:57]

Secretary Pompeo:

Well, thank you very much. It has been a long six months to watch them unravel so much of the good work that the Trump administration had achieved on behalf of the American people.

Brandon Lewis:

Well, you teed this one up so here it goes, when you and President Trump were serving our nation, we had a stable Middle East with amazing treaties being put in place that had never been done, historic movement there using a strategy that everyone said wouldn't work, but did. We had record high employment, low fuel costs, record lows in illegal immigration. Now we have the opposite of all that with the Biden administration. You were just at the Williamson County Lincoln Day Dinner on August

7th, not all of our subscribers could be there. So tell me what they missed and tell me what your message is for the people of Tennessee.

Secretary Pompeo:

Well, they missed a great gathering of true believers in the Conservative movement who are out every day working to make life better for their community, for their schools, their churches, their families, all the things that people like me from Kansas and people like y'all from Tennessee understand.

Secretary Pompeo:

I spoke to them very directly about the fact that this administration is headed down a path we haven't seen in America in the sense of their scale of the growth of government, you mentioned inflation, that's a result of that. The weakness abroad, where our enemies don't fear us and our friends don't want to hang around us because they think we're not prepared to do what is required. You can see businesses struggling to find people to work.

Secretary Pompeo:

All of these things are different than when we had a foreign policy to put America first and a domestic policy that understood that you have to get it right at home. You can't teach at garbage about racism in our schools, you can't teach that our founding was fundamentally flawed. You can't take away our guns, all the things that we all know to be true were what had led to the really good place that America was in before the change in administrations.

Brandon Lewis:

So when you get out of a role like that, you've got to do something, it gets in your blood. I came out of retirement after six years of running federal campaigns, I just wanted to run my little business, but we had so few conservative news outlets in our state that I launched the second one, we had one before. And lots of liberal media coverage was remarkably unfair to you and President Trump and now you've got it in your blood, so tell me about your new efforts with CAVPAC and just anything else that you, Mike Pompeo, you're spending your personal time on to try to move the ball forward.

Secretary Pompeo:

Well Brandon, first of all, thanks for doing what you're doing with your conservative news outlet. It's just the truth you're telling, right? Just the facts, unvarnished and real so everybody can form good judgments. It is really important, the left media, the corporate dominated media, just doesn't do that. I'd read reports, Brandon, in meetings I was in and they didn't remotely reflect what had actually happened. It was enormously frustrating and dangerous because the American people get bad info.

Secretary Pompeo:

And so you're right. I have, along with my wife Susan, committed ourselves to making sure that President Biden has as short a runway as possible. That begins with making sure we elect conservatives all across America, not just to take back the House in the Senate at the federal level. The school board members, Sheriff's offices, county commissioners, we need to go reestablish that the way we think about the world is right, it's better for everyone. We want equality for everyone.

Secretary Pompeo:

And so CAVPAC is the vehicle through which I'm doing that. You can go see the cap pack.com. We are traveling the country and helping candidates raise money, helping them get organized, teaching them about how you run an effective campaign so that we can take back these important institutions, the ones that impact each and every one of us from school board to Sheriff's office.

Brandon Lewis:

Well, if you ever have an opportunity, I wrote the best book on political fundraising ever, How to Raise Money for Political Office, because it's the only one. So I'd be happy to come teach the stuff that people hate, which the financing side of running for office.

Brandon Lewis:

You know our nation, so I'm just going to ask you a question that I think a lot of conservatives had on their mind and still have on their mind. A lot of liberties have been taken from Americans in the last 18 months, and if we're going to take things away every time there's an emergency, the government will always manufacture an emergency. And I've been shocked at how timid conservatives have been, and even liberals, about standing up for their Constitutional rights or even speaking out. What did you think as you watched it all unfold, and what has to happen for those rights to be reclaimed? Did you ever think Americans would lose so much turbulence?

Secretary Pompeo:

No, your point is very well taken. But when this Wuhan virus hit America, we were all trying to figure our way through this best, but we can now see what the path to this is, and we can see that it isn't through abrogating our rights. Indeed, it's about reinforcing our central understandings here. And I too, I was disappointed. I saw some pastors when certain states, it didn't happen in your state, but certain states were closing down churches and leaving bars open, didn't demand a different outcome for their flock, for the people to whom they had said they were going to help lead their life and their faith.

Secretary Pompeo:

But I now see a real awakening. I see it in Loudon County, Virginia. I've seen it in the State of Washington where parents can see the garbage being taught to their kids and they're saying, "No more." I can see pastors all across America saying, "No, we're going to get back at it. We're going to put people back in our synagogues, in our churches. We're going to go practice our faith."

Secretary Pompeo:

You see people standing up for their Second Amendment rights too, saying "No, you're not going to impinge on those." And then, when it comes to family, you can watch parents who are so concerned about what this administration is trying to do with our kids and not letting them get back to school. We know the enormous harm that flowed from keeping kids out of school. And frankly it hurt the least amongst us the most, but it hurt every young person that couldn't be in that environment, learning, being around their friends, being in that environment where they not only gained the academic skills they needed, but the social skills they needed to be successful.

Secretary Pompeo:

This administration wants to put everybody back home and put them in masks. We know how to handle this virus in a way now that we can protect people from the worst of the risk. And that's the path that

America needs to head down. It will only happen when Americans all across the country rise up and demand their freedom and their Liberty.

Brandon Lewis:

So, I'm very thankful for your service and you're continuing the fight, we can't be down one man, one Patriot because we are in a heck of a fight here. I've never seen it like this, and I've never said that. You know, politicians are trained to say that, but good grief, it is just a mess. So what do conservatives need to be doing practically speaking? I'm so glad you talked about the school boards. I'm so glad you talked about city councils because from an organizing standpoint, in many urban areas in the south, and I bet Kansas has got its own examples, we're getting our you-know-whats handed to us.

Secretary Pompeo:

Oh yeah.

Brandon Lewis:

And to think that you're old school, because you're well known, non-digital, not very aggressive campaigns are going to continue to put people in local office and it's just not working. What do we need to do, rank and file grassroots conservatives to be effective? And, I'll close with that question.

Secretary Pompeo:

So I'll come back to my experience. The first time I truly got involved in politics in any real way was I helped a woman run for city council in Wichita, Kansas. She said she wanted to run, she had not run for office before and so we got after it. And we brought people around us who'd been around campaigns before we did all the blocking and tackling. Then we routed the people we knew, our friends in the community, our friends in the schools, our friends in the churches and we asked them, "Step up."

Secretary Pompeo:

I think you're seeing people do this, and every conservative needs to find out the place that they can add value. Maybe they go teach fifth grade Sunday school, my wife and I did that for a while. Maybe they go knock on doors for somebody. Maybe they make phone calls. Maybe they write a check for \$5 or \$50 and help a candidate with the signs that they need or to get their message out.

Secretary Pompeo:

Then we need people with technical savvy. You mentioned this about digital, these campaigns that are fighting in a different way. We need to make sure that conservatives understand how those campaigns are won, how we get hearts and minds aligned with what I believe is the majority value set in America. We don't let these crazy radical left, what I believe our minority voices, drown us out. We have to win these races at every level all across America, and when we do I am confident this nation will continue to be the most exceptional country in the history of civilization.

Brandon Lewis:

We have about a minute left. I'm a man of my word. I'm going to give you the last one. Thank you so much for coming on this program and you've got a friend here in Tennessee and the media. If you ever come back into town or have a message to get out. So, Secretary Pompeo, I'll let you lead us out here.

Secretary Pompeo:

Great. Well, thank you. The last thing I'd mentioned is, as a evangelical Christian I also believe that we should pray not just for the folks that share our values, but those who need to really have our prayer, our current leadership in Washington needs those prayers as well. If we maintain our faith and we work hard and we tell the truth, I'm confident good things will happen.

Brandon Lewis:

Well, Nehemiah and Daniel were both people in servant relationships that were not elected, or were not appointed at the time, they weren't the leader but they had huge influence. And I think that we do have to pray for those that are in leadership and I'm glad that you brought that up. We've got a church, Calvary Chapel, here in Chattanooga, Tennessee that was so worried about everything that's happening they started a very large civics course, an organization, and they've been bringing speakers in once a month with thousands of people showing up.

Brandon Lewis:

Because the church has been involved in the culture, all of the Old Testament and the New Testament, and to think that churches are not and should not be involved in the culture and leadership is just completely misleading. They've got to get back in the fight.

Secretary Pompeo:

Amen.

Brandon Lewis:

All right. Well, Secretary, thank you so much. I wish you the best in all you do and you'll get one more prayer today for me. And if you ever come to Tennessee, look us up here at the Tennessee Conservative, and we'll get the message out.

Secretary Pompeo:

You can count on it, sir. Thank you. Thank you for your time today. So long.

Brandon Lewis:

Take care.