



A REAL Mr. Smith goes to Washington!

## Description

# The appointment of John “Jack” Smith as special counsel

By **Byron Toben**

November 23, 2022

One of my favourite film directors is **Frank Capra**. In 1939, he made the film ***Mr. Smith Goes To Washington*** wherein the young **Jimmy Stewart** played the fictional character “Jefferson Smith”, a boy scout leader nominated by the governor of his state to fill a vacant Senatorial seat in Washington. His honesty and naïveté collide with the interests of other senators who hope to profit from secret information as to the location of a proposed dam in his state where Mr. Smith is proposing a national boy’s town.

The film was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won one (for original story).

In 1946, Stewart went on to star in Capra’s great Christmas film ***It’s A Wonderful Life***.



Special counsel Jack Smith – Image: U.S. Department of Justice

Fast forward to 2022 and a real **John “Jack” Smith** is appointed by the U.S. Attorney General to go to Washington as a “special counsel” to recommend whether or not to institute proceedings against persons, including a former president, for various insider actions.

The real Mr. Smith is not naïve nor inexperienced, having a background in such matters state-wide, national and international, and is widely respected as an honest and objective person.

The president involved in this real-life situation immediately ranted that the appointee is a far-leftist socialist, playing his usual victim card.

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The fictional Mr. Smith prevailed on the power of his arguments leading to a confession by the key wrongdoer. Do not expect such reversal of the cliché that “truth is stranger than fiction,” originally quoted by **Lord Byron** and popularized by **Mark Twain** on the grounds that fiction has to make sense, but truth doesn't.

Hopefully, in the end, “the truth will out.” (Shakespeare)

Good luck, real Mr. Smith, so we all can enjoy a wonderful life after Christmas.



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Feature image: scene from *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington*, [Columbia Pictures](#), Public domain, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

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**Byron Toben**, a past president of *The Montreal Press Club*, has been [WestmountMag.ca](#)'s theatre reviewer since July 2015. Previously, he wrote for since terminated web sites *Rover Arts* and *Charlebois Post*, print weekly *The Downtowner* and print monthly *The Senior Times*. He also is an expert consultant on U.S. work permits for Canadians.



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### Date Created

November 2022