The Most Destructive Form of Political Corruption

from The Worst Perversion, by Kevin Williamson at National Review:

> *A liberal society with decent government requires that the pursuit of political power be insulated from the exercise of political power. That is why we have a Hatch Act and why the various dreams of the would-be campaign-finance police — who would have congressmen and presidents write the rules under which congressmen and presidents may be criticized and challenged — are in reality nightmares. (Here, let us say a word of thanks for the First Amendment and Citizens United.) Having an IRS that sorts nonprofits by their political stances in order to facilitate the harassment of political rivals is in real terms far worse than anything Bill Clinton got up to with Monica Lewinsky, and far worse than the shenanigans that Gordon Liddy and the rest of the Nixon henchmen got up to in the Watergate. The BATF harassment of True the Vote and other Obama-administration enemies is the stuff of which banana republics are made. Using the machinery of the state to seek political power and to aggrandize the political power one holds is the most destructive form of political corruption there is. A sane society would prosecute it the way we prosecute murder or armed robbery. It is a scandal and more than that: It is an assault on the foundations of a free society.*

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In spite of our political differences, we continue to function well as a political society because we have retained faith in the fairness in our institutions. We vote, respect the law and pay our taxes. Without this faith there are not enough cops or

enough IRS agents to force compliance. Obama’s corruption of critical institutions is his most damaging and under estimated legacy. Kevin is spot on.