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# A transition of power

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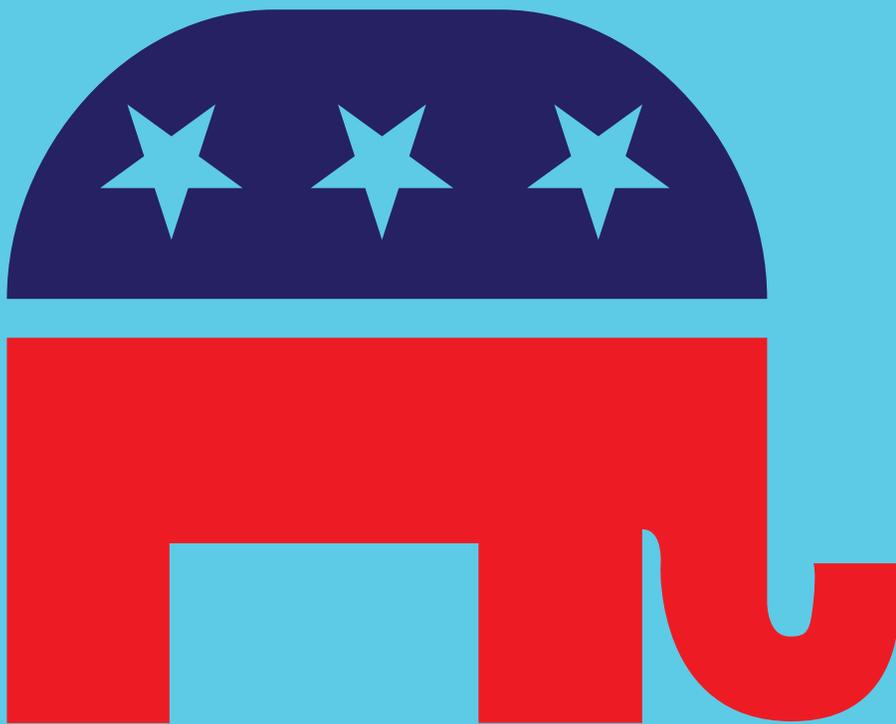
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# A TRANSITION OF POWER

By Courtney Carstens



With a new president comes new cabinet appointments.

One such appointment is Gov. Terry Branstad as ambassador to Beijing, a move that affects every Iowan.

“I’d say that Branstad has done well to forging a relationship with China while promoting Iowan and American business,” said Alex Sandeen, sophomore in political science. “Becoming an ambassador, I believe he can continue refining the relationship with China so we can engage in more cooperation for the better good.”

Gov. Branstad, the 39th and 42nd governor of Iowa, will be leaving his position behind to Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Professor Ren Yue, a professor of comparative politics at Iowa State, gave his prediction about what Branstad’s new title could mean for Iowa and the nation.

— ★ ★ ★ —

**Branstad has done well to forging a relationship with China while promoting Iowan and American business.**  
*-Alex Sandeen, sophomore in political science*

— ★ ★ ★ —

“Branstad was a really good decision for President Trump,” Yue said. “With some actions that the President has done in the

past, this will hopefully balance out some of those things said. With Iowa being such a large agriculture state, China does a lot of trade with Iowa.”

Further, Branstad has forged strong ties with China’s president, Xi Jinping.

Yue went further to explain how the relations between China and America have become more tense. Trump made a call to Taiwan during the beginning of his president-elect days and disrupted what Yue called, “The One China” understanding between China and Taiwan. This rule has always been respected by the United States until that phone call.

“The One China” understanding is an agreement between China

and Taiwan that stems from a 1979 policy. The policy switches diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China, and is the political foundation for U.S.-China relations.

"I am speaking from a United States point of view when I say that we don't want to push any further on the idea of "One China." Yue said. "It would benefit the United States to not get involved between Taiwan and China. It would be a bloody war that we would not want to get involved in."

Yue further elaborated that Branstad taking the position in China would help alleviate the problems that Trump raised.

"Branstad has a great relationship with China so it works out to be beneficial for the administration and the state itself," said public relations student Austen Giles.

According to an article by Jason Noble of the Des Moines Register, this transfer of power from Lieutenant Governor to Governor for Reynolds could be one of the largest domino affects in Iowa political history.

Reynolds' assenting into her position will place her as the first female governor in Iowa's history, making massive waves in Iowa politics because Iowa has only had four different governors in 48 years. For Iowa, this will be

a change like no other. The everyday functions of how things will be done, including deals brokered, will change but it is predicted that this change would have been drastically different if a democrat was taking the position over.

Furthermore, Kim Reynolds and Terry Branstad have worked closely together for six years. This should have given Reynolds enough time to thoroughly understand how Branstad does things, and maybe how she should run things in the future.

Agriculture is one of the largest industries in Iowa, and Governor Branstad becoming ambassador to China is supposed to keep Iowa's main industry stable, according to Yue.

"Branstad is the one with the closest connection with President Xi Jinping." Yue said. "That relationship goes back decades. President Trump made a good decision and it should benefit Iowans."

