The Kochs come to town, with an agenda

BY STEVEN R. STRAHLER

Three years ago the Chicago Council on Global Affairs was named the top think tank to watch because of an intensified focus on megacities, food security and other topics not traditionally associated with foreign policy agendas. But that ambition is stirring tension as the council taps new funding sources to fuel its growth.

The council this month disclosed a $1.9 million grant from the Koch Foundation to back research into the concept of “restraint” in U.S. foreign policy, just as American forces were abruptly withdrawn from Syria, threatening the Middle East with further instability.

The Koch Foundation’s political orientation triggered a pointed boardroom debate within the council. Koch Foundation founders Charles and the late David Koch have been known for climate-change denial and other conservative causes at odds with the globalist mindset of the council. The council’s president, Ivo Daalder, is a former U.S. ambassador to NATO and an alum of the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution.

Founded nearly a century ago in the wake of World War I as the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, the civic-spirited body is a former U.S. ambassador to NATO and an alum of the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution.

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Is Griffin shopping a piece of his business?

BY LYNNIE MAREK

Ken Griffin’s Citadel and Citadel Securities have been on a roll, even as the hedge fund industry shrinks and trading rivals stumble. Citadel’s hedge fund assets have grown to about $32 billion under management since a near collapse in 2008, and Citadel Securities has had strong profits. So why would Griffin consider selling part of his business?

The hedge fund industry was rocked by the news recently that the Citadel CEO and founder had been in talks with asset management colossus Blackstone Group about one of its funds buying a minority stake in his businesses. A person familiar with the situation who asks not to be identified confirms that the two companies had discussed the possibility, as first reported Oct. 12 by the Wall Street Journal.

The talks ended without a deal, but Griffin entertaining a bid

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JOE CAHILL

Exelon and ComEd have discovered the downside of successful lobbying.

UNITED CENTER

We sit down with the arena’s owners to reflect on 25 years of growth and what’s next.
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