



The List a Mile Long

Published in the Martinsburg *Journal*, February 02, 2020

One of the longest internet search sites I've ever come across is a single Wikipedia page so extensive that it almost crashed my computer. To scroll through it requires a longer period of concentration than most of us can tolerate at one time, so a comfortable sofa is recommended if a person chooses to peruse, let alone digest, the gist of this list.

It is a record of registered Republicans who opposed Trump for election in 2016 and includes hundreds of elected officials, past and present, plus both ex-president Bushes. It's got senators, congressional representatives, government appointees, former cabinet members, governors, state legislators, business leaders, and many other recognizable names on it.

Once you have taken a break for a meal and a nap, you could scroll through an embedded link to an index of newspapers which did not endorse Trump in 2016, including editorial boards who historically and consistently have supported Republican candidates in past elections. It also compiles media that made the unprecedented decision to encourage voters to "use their conscience" to vote for anyone else on the ballot but Trump.

No one seriously expected Trump's impeachment to lead to his removal, which would have altered, not reversed or overturned, the results of the election. Remember; a vote for Trump was also a vote for Pence. The 2016 election was only partially won when our Electoral College negated the popular vote: That's in addition to the criminal interference done by the Russian government, substantiated by the Mueller Report. So yes, it was "rigged," as Trump claims, but in his favor. To oust him at this point might have disappointed Putin more than it would most of the population of the U.S.

Now that 2020 is finally here, there will likely be many public figures encouraging voters to reject the candidate who has transformed his Republican administration, and the party, into a sinking ship. A better metaphor, citing descriptions of those who have served in it, would be a garbage scow that continues to contaminate the seas that swallowed it. But I am aware that just because it's still floating in its own wreckage, with no lifeboats in sight, does not mean that its one survivor will not prevail.

However, I am now convinced that the people in America hurting the most are not those in the Democratic Party. Those suffering the most pain are those who identify as ideological Republicans, philosophical Conservatives, strict Constitutionalists, and conscientious Evangelicals and Christians, many of whom are respected political figures, journalists, celebrities, or ordinary citizens. With their criticism of the president, the leader of their party, they have been just as crudely bullied by him as his "liberal, lefty wacko" Democratic victims have. Some of them were concerned enough to have spoken up in 2016, and I expect they will again, this time with even more urgency. The next Wikipedia page may be even longer.

THE BYSTANDER



This column doesn't allow me space for even a partial sampling of those who compose the Never-Trumper "human scum," as the president calls them. But they include Mitt "Pompous Ass" Romney; Generals "Dopes and Babies" from the Department of Defense; Senator Jeff "He's a Flake" Flake of Arizona; Mark Galli, editor of Billy Graham's "far-left magazine Christianity Today;" writer Charlie "Dope" Sykes; and William Webster, former head of the CIA and the FBI "scum." Then there is the organization called "the Lincoln Project" whose first public statement read; "We are Republicans and we want Trump Defeated." Its leader is George "Total Whack Job" Conway, husband of Kellyanne.

The Alt-Right, well represented in Trump's Cabinet and Security Council, slurs moderate, mainstream establishment Republicans as "cuckRepublicans," from the old English word cuckold, defined as "too wimpy to object when his wife cheats on him in plain sight." Even on "Military.com," the articles are often subtly critical of Trump, particularly his announcement recently that the Traumatic Brain Injuries sustained by our troops from Iran's January 8th missile strikes "aren't serious." Comments from readers, mostly active-duty service members and veterans, about this Commander-in-Chief make my column today sound downright wishy-washy.

But no matter! His "fan base" shrugs it all off, because now it's fun to be afraid, cool to be coarse, and hip to be hateful. They prevail not in numbers but in decibels, guffawing and giggling in the aisles with gleeful delight. The reality is that he is using them to grab power for himself "alone." Perhaps that makes them happy, but it makes the rest of us grieve.

In the worst example of bipartisanship, he ridicules the ideals we try to live up to, vilifies and terminates any who oppose him, sets policies intended to flip off half of the population, and thrives on the chaos he causes. We are split into two lists, each miles and miles long: We are either being abused by this president, or are amused by this president.

Far better to suffer than to be one who is laughing.

Carol Williams lives in Berkeley County, and is a US Army veteran and former ER nurse. Her archived columns from the Journal are published in a book titled "the Age of Uterine Law." She can be contacted through her website, www.anothercarolwilliams.com.