

Enough demonization

Is there no end to the demonization that we Americans are up against? The latest shoe to drop in the purge of heretofore reliable groups/individuals is the fear that there might be a *subversive element* within the military - specifically the National guardsmen that are now stationed in Washington, DC. According to the Associated Press, "Defense Department officials" like Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, has told commanders to be on the lookout for any problems within their ranks. Presumably, these problems are of the 'fifth column' type in which some servicemen might not be loyal to their oaths and would, because of their disagreement with Biden's ascension to the Presidency and his politics, be inclined to stir up trouble. And because they are armed they would pose a security threat. That is why there is now a 100% vetting of all the 25K troops underway.

This is outrageous and an insult to our proud servicemen and women. Exercising an 'abundance of caution,' is a phrase that has become a mantra of those who are capitalizing on real or imagined *emergencies*. It is used by those in positions of power are misusing that power to strike fear into the hearts of ordinary Americans. We are seeing this abuse and demonization play out in public shaming of those who voted against certifying the states' election results. Senator Josh Hawley, Senator from Missouri, has received death threats, had his book deal with publisher Simon and Schuster pulled and had the venue for one of his fund-raising events cancelled by a Loew's Hotel in Florida. Students and alumni at Harvard and Yale Universities have called for senators (among them Ted Cruz) to be disbarred for their vote last week.

According to the reports from the New York Times and other news outlets, AT&T, whose PAC donated the most of any single public company in the 2019-20 election cycle, said it would suspend contributions to those Republican lawmakers. They add their name to the Marriott Corporation and Facebook, Microsoft, Coca-Cola, Citigroup, J.P. Morgan and Goldman Sachs who also said they were pausing PAC donations to both Republican and Democratic candidates for various lengths of time.

Politico reported that "Hallmark, MasterCard and American Express — all of whom doled out most of their political contributions to Republicans during the 2020 election cycle — announced last Monday that they, too, were cutting off Republicans who challenged the election results as has Dow, the chemical company, and Blue Cross Blue Shield (the health insurance giant whose political action committee has favored Republicans in every election since 1996)." Whether these companies were bowing to pressure from shareholders or special interest groups is not known at this point, but if this trend continues it will ignite a firestorm of punitive measures which will be directed against the free exercise of speech and portend an ideological war of dollars that will end badly...for the corporations themselves AND their targets.

The demonization of Republicans, Trump officials and Trump supporters has been standard fare for Left-wing news organizations that have seized on any opportunity to destroy reputations and careers and shows no signs of stopping, despite the fact that the Trump Administration has but two days left to go. Biden supporters and surrogates have openly advocated for preventing Trump officials from obtaining follow-on employment. They have pushed for a wholesale elimination of their opportunities for earning a living. Add to that their doxing (*doxing is the Internet-based practice of researching and publicly broadcasting private or identifying information about an individual*) and public shaming of these individuals and we can see that the Left is not content with competing in the marketplace of ideas, but is signaling for total annihilation via a new-age McCarthyism.

According preferential treatment to party faithful of the party taking the reins of power has always been the case, but there was always a 'gentleman's agreement' that that power would not be used to seek out and persecute those who served in a prior administration. In short, it was expected that many would return to think tanks, PACS, non-profits and live out their time - outside of power - until they could return to other jobs in a new administration. Never before have we seen such a total purge of one group of people take place.

It is frightening, not only for what is being done in full view, but also for the behind-the-scenes efforts to sully reputations through innuendo and phony accusations of skullduggery and in some cases outright criminal complaints. No one is safe in such an environment. Many Conservatives are, understandably, worried that when the levers of power are held by a group of elected officials, the Deep State and the media, a dangerous and unholy alliance will exist - and thrive - and demand more 'scalps' from their enemies.

This is not healing. This is not tolerance. This is not unity. This is, however, what we have come to expect from people whose only desire is to wield absolute power. There is a target on all Republicans and Conservatives backs, and the next six months will reveal the extent to which the Democrats will go to destroy anything the previous Administration had accomplished; the President and any member of the Trump family or the Trump campaign team; AND the Republican Party, itself.

Demonization is not merely a tactic. It is a political hydra - a serpent with many heads, all of which can act in concert with all the others but also act independently of each other. Cutting off one will not kill the beast. Conservatives must realize what they are up against and stand together. They must employ one another, defend one another and not back down from the fight. The coming attacks like the current trumped-up fear about subversives in the military will escalate and not subside on their own. The beast is insatiable. It's up to us to starve it.

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