

## Dewey defeats Truman...again

I was just a young whippersnapper when the media declared the wrong winner of the election of 1948, but the photo of Harry Truman holding up his copy of the Chicago Daily Tribune should have been on the minds of the Associated Press today when they announced that Joe Biden had become the next President of the United States.

I may be old fashioned, but I always thought that in ultra-close races when the results were in dispute that the media should keep their traps shut before telling the rest of us something that was not yet set in stone. Harkening back to November 8<sup>th</sup> of 2000, CBS News' Dan Rather offered what the New York Times reported as the equivalent of a 'money back guarantee' that then VP Al Gore had become the next President by winning Florida's electoral votes.

The networks that had jumped on the CBS bandwagon and jumped the gun that evening all had to retract their declarations later and were forced to wipe the collective egg from their faces. To quote the New York Times, "Spokesmen for several of the networks attributed the mix-up to "problems"" in the data supplied by the Voter News Service, the polling organization run by a consortium of networks and the Associated Press." Really? Problems with the data? Knowing Dan Rather's and the media's political bent of the time, I think it's safe to say that it was pure, unadulterated partisanship and disdain for George W. Bush and the Republicans that motivated the announcement.

Fast forward to today. You'd think that the media (and specifically the Associated Press) would have learned a lesson from their mistakes twenty years ago. But "nooooo," as Saturday Night Live's John Belushi was fond of saying. The AP repeated its earlier mistake and that of CBS and others. And, despite the fact that lawsuits have been filed by the Trump campaign's lawyers to stay the counting of what they consider to be 'illegal ballots' AND their challenges to so-called 'glitches' in voter tabulation software that could have affected dozens of other voting precincts in several states (which may have caused the misreading and subsequent miscounting of thousands of ballots) and you have ample grounds for waiting to declare a winner!

If casting doubt on the seriousness of the counting and ballot certification weren't enough, Trump's legal team has challenged several states' and cities' refusals to allow Republican observers close enough to 'authenticators' as they opened and certified mail-in ballot signatures. All of these allegations should have been ample reason to expect the media to hold off its declaration of a clear winner...but they weren't. Why? Because the media has no scruples.

Instead, they are guided by an overarching philosophy which is based on hatred for Donald Trump and the Republicans...*do anything you can as early as you can to give the Democrat candidate the upper hand and by doing so move public opinion as far away as possible from any suspicion that these allegations may, in fact, be real.*

The truth is, the press doesn't give a tinker's damn about fairness.

Going back to the Florida fiasco, it took 39 days and a trip to the Supreme Court before fairness could be interjected back into the process, and when it was over, George W. Bush was declared the winner. We have experienced many elections that were overturned by recounts over the years, most of them down-ballot races. That fact, plus the foregoing complaints made about possible 'voter fraud' by the Trump campaign AND a recent order by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito to the State of Pennsylvania to segregate mail-in ballots that came in after election day should have prevented the media from declaring Joe Biden the 46<sup>th</sup> President-elect of the United States.

The media has acted as none of that mattered and are conducting themselves as the unelected 'fourth branch of government,' willfully bypassing State certifications of voter tallies and allocation of electoral votes. Their insistence on usurping the right of others to decide for all of us who our next President will be is reprehensible and should not be tolerated.

It appears that they have adopted the old Bill Clinton approach to rash decision-making that tramples the rights of others...it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission. Funny, I don't recall that role or that approach being mentioned anywhere in the Constitution, but I could be mistaken.

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