

## A Congressional high-colonic

It's become painfully clear to this political observer of many years that a declaration of war has now been officially issued against America's manners, and that we have some twit from Michigan to thank for it. This week, Ms. Rashida Tlaib, a freshman Congress(wo)man from Michigan's 13th Congressional District, speaking at a bar in Washington, D.C., just hours after being sworn into Congress, promised her cheering audience that they (Congress) would impeach the "motherf\_\_\_\_r" (President Trump). Her use of the 'mf' word, not only dishonored her new office, but was also an affront to her Muslim practices (Ms. Tlaib was the first Muslim in history to be elected to a state legislature and one of the first two Muslims in the U.S. House of Representatives). So much for diversity...unless, of course, the purpose of her coarse comments was to show that even devout Muslims can be as foul-mouthed as any other politician of any religious stripe.

If we must resort to hyphens, Ms. Tlaib's is Palestinian-American. She is the eldest of fourteen children born to her mother Beit Ur El Foka (originally from the city of Ramallah) and her father Beit Hanina (from Jerusalem). She helped raise her brothers and sisters and eventually earned her law degree in 2004. You would think that her early life and her marriage to a fellow Muslim (Fayez Tlaib from whom she is now divorced) would have taught her the importance of exercising respectful speech and the enormous value of role-modeling that a Muslim officeholder has. By her insulting and scatological remarks, she has managed to cross the thin and delicate line that separates honest, critical speech from that normally reserved for the truly ignorant and morally bankrupt among us.

Like many of her compatriot freshman Representatives in the 116th Congress who have made similar but less boorish statements, Ms. Tlaib appears unruffled by any criticism of her crudity. Refusing to apologize and doubling-down on her rancor is, instead, her chosen modus operandi. Her defenders include another freshman Democrat Representative, Ms. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, and on a news program this morning, Democrat Congressman David Cicilline from Rhode Island, who refused to condemn her speech saying that she was voicing the 'passion' of her constituents.

Apparently, Ms. Tlaib and many young Democrat Representatives have made the final journey from the gutter to the Capitol and are busy preparing to upend Congressional protocol using Alinsky's 'Rules for Radicals' as they attempt to legislate their new immoral morality on the rest of us. And they have adopted the language as well. No expletive will be considered too brutish or off-limits. No acerbic invective will be regarded as too personal and no situation will be exempt from using it. For them, Emily Post never existed, nor was there ever such a thing as good taste or situational propriety. Their only 'rules of the road' are those that will help them achieve their objectives. It's not how you play the game that counts, and if acting like a year-long sea-bound sailor on shore leave or an inveterate reprobate libertine gets it done, so be it.

Think. We have actually given the keys to the political castle to the barbarians and hung out the 'welcome' sign for them to enter and trash the place if they've a mind to it. It's almost unimaginable to those of us who grew up in homes where respect was the rule not the exception and where a bar of soap was always on hand to wash out the mouths of those of us who strayed from the script of good taste. While that threat may have worked for my generation, I don't think it's powerful enough for the Ms. Tlaibs of this world. A better solution might be a mandatory 435-member Congressional high-colonic. Legislate that remedy and we might recapture some of our lost civility.

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