

Bad Behavior Runs Rampant Among Leaders!

Written by Dr. E. Faye Williams
Monday, 06 February 2012 00:00

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I rarely say I am angry because plain old anger can consume and destroy, but it's about time for a lot of us to get constructively angry and tell these so-called leaders with such bad behavior that they are getting out of hand! We have got to unite and find action to stop them or we risk having a whole generation of young people who are listening to and observing their garbage grow up thinking this is the way things are supposed to be!

In the past few months, we witnessed a bunch of racist candidates fighting to become President of the United States saying any and everything about Black people, about our President, about our First Lady, about our children, about Latinos, about women and just about anybody with whom they disagree. We have witnessed a man shooting at the White House, another throwing a smoke bomb. We've heard about someone exploding the car and trying to set a fire to the home of the family of well-known civil rights leader, the late Robert Hicks, down in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

I am sure you've heard about the horrendous racial profiling of Latinos by the police in East

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Haven, Connecticut. To make matters worse, the mayor of the town flippantly responded to a reporter's serious question of what he planned to do regarding Latinos, that he would probably have tacos for dinner! Maybe the atrocious behavior of officials of that town would be considered less egregious because their behavior affects fewer people, but really, would our country actually in this day and age elect a racist President of the United States over the brilliant President we now have? There is certainly a big effort underway to try to do just that.

I, like so many people in the country today, am angry about the bad behavior of the people I have mentioned. Add to that Governor Jan Brewer bristling against the President and wagging her finger in his face when he recently visited her state. We have to take some form of action to show these people that there are consequences for such behavior. Would you want to go to that Connecticut town knowing that you would not be among the protected and served? Would you want to be anywhere in Arizona facing a rude governor as you stepped off the airplane? Would you want to live in a country where Presidential candidates have made it clear they hate you so much that they are willing to lie at your expense to get elected?

After so many Americans acted in accordance with their "better angels" in 2008 to elect President Barack Obama, I refuse to believe that was just a fluke. I still believe the majority of the people in this country are decent people, and I believe they reject the meanness of people like Senator Mitch McConnell who continues to express his disdain for the American people by willingly blocking all forms of progress, forcing many people to struggle and suffer just so that he can spend his time figuring out how to defeat President Obama.

It has been said that evil can triumph only when good people do nothing. We must act to show so-called leaders what it means to be a true leader and a person who loves America enough to show basic respect. Let's begin with the Presidential hopefuls. Don't listen to them. Don't vote for them. Don't stop over to buy your gasoline or your snacks in East Haven if you happen to be passing through. As for Arizona, don't even think of vacationing there. If they make anything

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there, try to resist purchasing it. Don't attend meetings there. There is a principle in law that says, "Silence gives consent." Surely we care more about our country than to allow the few to set such low standards for measuring the intelligence and behavior of Americans.

Register your disdain for all such behavior on social media, by writing letters expressing how you feel about such bad behavior. Call your talk shows. Write op-eds. Don't allow stupid behavior of the few to be a reflection of all of us. We are charged with being a civilized society so we can't sit back and allow this to continue.

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is Chair of the National Congress of Black Women and a Presidential Scholars Commissioner. Website: www.nationalcongressbw.org or 202/678-6788.)

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

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SOURCE: Trice Edney Newswire

Gingrich Plays Old South Race Card of a Bygone Era

The toxic message that drove Newt Gingrich to victory in South Carolina will drive our nation apart rather than bring it together. And it will spell defeat for him — and for Republicans if they choose to go that way.

Gingrich's campaign limped into South Carolina on life support. His revival came from his cunning peddling of a poisonous potion of race-bait politics to a virtually all-white electorate.

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Voters swung to Gingrich because, as Harold Wade, 85, was quoted in the Washington Post as saying, "We need someone who's mean" to take on Obama. Newt filled that description by employing a hoary campaign tactic: blistering the "elite media" while posturing on race.

Gingrich's rise was launched when Fox News pundit Juan Williams, an African American, questioned him about calling Obama the "food stamp president." Gingrich grabbed the opportunity to scorn Williams and slur Obama, while painting Republicans as the party of work. Standing ovation. In the second debate, Gingrich dismissed his second wife's charge that he had asked her for an open marriage by snarling at CNN's John King, saying it was "despicable" merely to raise the issue.

In the new South Carolina, blacks and whites play ball together, shop together and serve in the military together. But none of that was visible in the virtually all-white, conservative Republican primary. So Gingrich could use food stamps the way that Reagan burlesqued welfare. But the measure of any civilization is how we treat the needy in times of trouble. Some 45 million Americans receive food stamps. The program benefits farmers, truckers and grocers, as well as the malnourished. It is morally sound and merits praise.

But Gingrich wanted to give Republican primary voters a full dose of Old South politics. He paraded it all out in his acceptance speech on the night of his victory.

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The major issue of the election, he said, was a choice between “American exceptionalism” and the “radicalism of Saul Alinsky.” (Few knew who Saul Alinsky was, but with that name, they knew he wasn’t one of them.) Gingrich painted himself as standing with Americans revolting against “elites who have been trying for a half century to force us to quit being American and to become some kind of other system.”

This paranoid nonsense had special meaning to the voters of the Old South. A half century ago was the civil rights movement, and Dr. King’s victory over segregation — and Southerners were embittered at the media for reporting on the demonstrations.

Gingrich then decried a mythic “anti-religious bigotry of our elites.” Denouncing an obscure judge for a ruling on prayer at graduation ceremonies, Gingrich stood tall against “speech dictatorship by anti-religious bigots.”

Gingrich endorsed Texas Gov. Perry’s focus on the 10th Amendment, promising to return power to the states and local governments. States’ rights is the doctrine of the Confederacy, of the Fort Sumter party, not the Boston Tea Party. This doctrine was invoked in defense of slavery, of secession and of segregation.

Gingrich concluded by promising to defend historic America from being transformed into a “secular European-style bureaucratic socialistic system,” and to “rally Americans to reassert their belief in America.”

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This mix of resentment and victimization sold well in South Carolina. But the old poisons drive us apart, not together, and will alienate far more voters than it attracts in most of America. If the Gingrich campaign continues, Republicans are likely to learn the hard way that a party of white sanctuary is a minority party in an America of proud diversity.

Source: Trice Edney Newswire