

"Nada es tan peligroso como dejar permanecer largo tiempo a un mismo ciudadano en el poder. El Pueblo se acostumbra a obedecerle y él se acostumbra a mandarlo; de donde se origina la usurpación y la tiranía. Un justo celo es la garantía de la libertad republicana, y nuestros ciudadanos deben temer con sobrada justicia que el mismo magistrado que los ha mandado mucho tiempo, los mande perpetuamente".

Simón Bolívar (Discurso de Angostura - 15 de febrero de 1819)

**LUCHEMOS POR EL DERECHO
AL SUFRAGIO EFECTIVO
Y POR LA NO REELECCION**

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OPEN LETTER TO REPUBLICAN LEADERS

Daniel Benveniste | noviembre 11, 2016 | Artículos | No hay comentarios



To the Republican Senate and House of Representatives,

As a Democrat I have rarely voted for Republicans, but I have always respected them and felt no doubt about their patriotism and commitment to democratic values. I do, however, doubt Donald Trump's patriotism and commitment to democratic values. Early in the morning, on November 9th, he called for unity and called for us, as a nation, to come together. He did so after spending the preceding year insulting women in the most vulgar of terms, attacking Muslims in a country founded on religious freedom, attacking immigrants in a land founded and continually revitalized by immigrants, finding common ground with tyrants around the world, insulting our neighbors and allies, and flirting with anti-Semites and white nationalists. After all that he read his teleprompter and cynically called for "unity."

In the last 50 years Republicans and Democrats, together, have made great progress on women's rights, civil rights, environmentalism, health care, and education. Now, with control of the Senate and the House of Representatives, it is in your power to decide who will have control over women's health care—individual women or you. It is in your power to decide if this country will be a beacon of religious freedom or a bastion of religious intolerance.

If I may paraphrase the good Pastor Martin Niemöller on the rise of the Nazis:

First they came for the Muslims, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Muslim.

Then they came for the Latinos, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Latino.

Then they came for the women, and I did not speak out—

Because I am not a woman.

Then they came for me—

And there was no one left to speak for me.

It is in your power now to decide if incendiary speech will be allowed to light the fires of violence in our country. It is in your power to decide if we will remain a democracy or devolve into a country of strongman politics and demagoguery. It is in your power to decide if we will lead the world as a beacon of liberty and international cooperation or collapse into fear and isolationism. It is in your power to decide if the Bible will be used as a book of spiritual inspiration and religious guidance or be regarded as some sort of quasi-scientific treatise written thousands of years before the scientific revolution. It will be up to you to decide if you know more about climate change than the scientists. If you think you do, it will be easy enough to discount the scientists as “elitists.” It will be up to you to decide if you will add kindling to the anti-Semitic and white supremacist embers that smolder all around Donald J. Trump. It is in your power to take away the health insurance of millions of blue-collar workers and people with preexisting medical conditions. It’s up to you.

You will not be stopped by the Democrats in the Senate or the House of Representatives, as you have the majority, but you will hear from them. You will not be stopped by experts (“elites”) on the matters that you will confront, as you can easily ignore them. You will not be stopped by the old hippies demonstrating in the street, but they will be there. You will also not be stopped by the legions of young people in the street yearning to breathe free but they will be there too.

Don’t discount people comparing Trump to Hugo Chavez and Adolf Hitler. Trump has not yet destroyed the country but he is already walking down the same street of demagoguery, authoritarianism, violence and anti-democratic action. And now the fate of our government is in your hands.

There is not much out there that can really stop you but so long as America remains a democracy, you will be held accountable for the deeds you do and for your failures to act in a timely fashion on matters that concern our nation and our world. May you be granted the wisdom to do the right thing.

I began by saying I have always respected Republicans and felt no doubt about their patriotism and commitment to democratic values, and I wish to end by tipping my hat to Colin Powell, Mitt Romney, Jeb Bush, George P. Schultz, Condoleezza Rice, Michael Bloomberg, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Paul Wolfowitz, Robert Gates, Ana Navarro, Tara Setmayer, Ari Fleischer and so many other Republicans who recognized that this was not an election between a Democrat and a Republican, as in the past, but an election between democracy and demagoguery. They stood up as the patriots they are with their commitment to democratic values. I salute them now for what they did and hope we will all be able to salute you for what you are yet to do. It’s up to you. The world is watching.

The struggle continues and we carry on.

Best wishes to you and to the United States of America.

Yours,
Daniel Benveniste, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
(Feel free to forward or post.)

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