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“Hate and Rancor”

by
Tom Holbrook

I would like to applaud President Bush on his generous and gracious cooperation with President-Elect Obama by receiving him and his wife Michelle at the White House for a pre-inauguration tour and substantive talk about the challenges of the country and ways to facilitate a smooth transition into a new administration. Although I would think the same has been done in previous administrations I can't recall any during my 65+ years. To me it shows that President Bush is not the ogre and self-serving cretin he is made out to be by some.

I'm sure President Bush will relish his exit from the thankless position he is leaving. Other than our immediate Past-President, William Jefferson Clinton, I can think of no President who has been so hated and/or vilified as President Bush. To point out one's short-comings and differences in political points of view is certainly acceptable and expected in any contest or administration, but to reach the point of spewing hate-filled speech or writing ugly, defaming caricatures goes beyond the pale and outside the lines of acceptable rhetoric or common decency.

During the just completed, historically long, almost epic-proportional Presidential campaign, the American public was exposed to an avalanche of mud being slung by both sides, even toward members of the same parties. I'm sure, at some point, I even tossed a few handfuls myself into the mix. E-mails by the hundreds flooded my computer from well-meaning friends and not so well-meaning strangers wanting me to attack Obama by forwarding hate-filled, racially motivated lies and innuendoes to all in my address book. I did not do it.

When I wrote that Sen. Obama was an unknown entity with no real experience in management of people or business that was the truth. When I said the American people have no valid historical knowledge of Obama's life and experiences that is the truth. When I told my readers that Sen. Obama had voted for more liberally laced legislation than any of his Senatorial cohorts that was the truth validated by his own voting record. When I say his votes and his campaign rhetoric lean dangerously toward Socialistic beliefs that was the truth, validated by his own words. I was more than accurate when I said Obama was and is one of the greatest orators our political scene has ever seen I was spot on but, also, spot on when I said his speeches held only beautiful rhetoric and not specifics.

I never used vitriolic language to enflame or rouse hate or rancor in the hearts of the readers. I felt it is my job to prick the minds of my readers and generate curiosity and a genuine desire to know more about an individual or subject.

In Obama's victory I congratulated him on a brilliantly managed campaign, utilizing all of the modern technology available and far surpassing any previous levels of certain voters' participation in our

country's history. I am sincere in hoping he will allow his campaign shift to the center to continue and that he will become one of the greatest Presidents our country has ever had without leading us into full-blown Socialism.

I pray daily that he will truly be a President for all the people of America.

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