

Following from the previous posting: three last letters to my Republican representatives. As of January 11, 2021, none of these were answered.

Mon, 21 Dec 2020 5:21PM

Subject: time to speak yet?

From Arnold Isaacs to Nic Kipke, Bryan Simonaire, and Nathan Volke

Dear Mr. Simonaire, Mr. Kipke, and Mr. Volke – This past weekend, as you may have read, President Trump tweeted, "Statistically impossible to have lost the 2020 Election."

Do you truly think more investigation is needed to determine that that is an obvious and breathtaking lie? Do we really have to wait for more court rulings, on top of the 50-plus cases that Trump's advocates have already lost, for you and other elected Republicans across the country to conclude that his defeat was not only statistically possible, but a confirmed fact?

The next words in that tweet were, "Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!"

Does that make you think the president wants his supporters to leave their guns home and hold a peaceful demonstration? Or would those words sound to some of his more fervent followers like an invitation to violence?

The people Trump was talking to unmistakably include many people in your districts who voted for you. Do you not feel any responsibility to tell those constituents that the president is lying to them? Do you not have any obligation to tell them not to go to Washington to demonstrate, and possibly contribute to civil disorder, to support a lie?

It's been a bedrock tradition in this country that after an election, all of us, beginning with the losing candidate, accept and respect the voters' choice. When that doesn't happen, as I know first-hand from many years of living and working and observing elections in many countries around the world, democracy is an empty word.

As far as I am aware, before this year no presidential candidate in the United States for at least 130 or 140 years, possibly longer, has broken that tradition. Until this presidency, it would not have entered my mind that an American president would ever do such a thing. I would have been even less likely to imagine that across the country, numerous elected officials from one of our two major political parties would let that happen without raising a voice against it, either because they would not let themselves see what was happening, or because they saw but chose not to say anything about it.

You may have heard the Watergate cliché that "the coverup is worse than the crime." That surely applies in this case. President Trump's actions since losing the election may not be literally a crime (I will leave it to him to throw the word 'criminal' at people who oppose his politics or criticize his conduct) but they are monumentally dishonest and wrong. Remaining silent has not just covered up that wrong but made it vastly more harmful than it could have been.

We don't know yet exactly how seriously the country's public life has been harmed, or how long it will last. But there is no possible doubt that the damage will be severe, and you and your fellow Republicans who would not speak out during these weeks for truth, the rule of law, and fundamental democratic principle will bear a heavy responsibility for it.

With respect but also profound regret and disappointment
Arnold Isaacs

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Mon, 4 Jan 2021 12:15PM

Subject: once again, is it time to speak out on the election?

From Arnold Isaacs to Bryan Simonaire, Nic Kipke, and Nathan Volke

Dear Senator Simonaire, Delegate Kipke and Councilman Volke – Once again, if you have not done so, is it not time to publicly tell your constituents that there is no evidence the presidential election was invalid, that Joe Biden was legitimately elected, and that continuing attempts to discredit the result are against all democratic principles and tradition and seriously harmful for the public life of this country?

Should you not join Governor Hogan in recognizing that allegations of fraud have been consistently revealed as false and calling on Washington politicians to respect the voters' verified choice?

I assume a large majority of your voters in past elections voted for President Trump in 2020. Do you not have a responsibility to let them know that what they are now hearing from him (and may well keep hearing in the future) is not true? Shouldn't you tell them that although you and they would have chosen differently, Joe Biden won a free and fair election and will serve legally as president?

We are talking about the fundamental bedrock of a democratic political system, that after an election, citizens on both sides, beginning with the losing candidate, accept and respect the voters' decision. Sadly, we are in a moment where a lot of Americans are not meeting that test. As elected officials, I believe you have an urgent obligation not to remain silent but to speak out for truth, the rule of law, and basic democratic practice. I hope you will do so without further delay.

Sincerely
Arnold R. Isaacs
Pasadena

7 Jan 2021 5:54PM

Subject: one last note on telling the truth about the election

From Arnold Isaacs to Bryan Simonaire, Nic Kipke, and Nathan Volke

Dear Senator Simonaire, Delegate Kipke and Councilman Volke – I have no way to know if any of your voters (who one can guess likely also voted for President Trump) went to Washington yesterday to join his rally on the Mall, and if so, if any of them were then involved in breaking into the Capitol to protest against confirming the Electoral College vote for Joe Biden.

Maybe you know if anyone from your district went, or maybe not. But I expect you do know that the rally and the assault on the Capitol were motivated by a flagrant lie, the president's completely false claim that he won the election and was cheated out of a second term by massive voting fraud. After yesterday's events, perhaps you also recognize how dangerous that lie is, and why I have been asking you to speak out against it since my first emails nearly two months ago.

In those weeks you have not given any answer to me; I'm not aware that you have said anything publicly, though I will be very pleased if you have.

I realize that at this point a statement from you might not convince many of your constituents to stop believing the story they've been hearing from Trump for all these weeks. But I am writing this one last time to ask you to consider this: if you had spoken out earlier, and had made an effort to tell your voters about the steady accumulation of irrefutable evidence disproving Trump's false statements, perhaps you'd have helped the truth make more headway against them. If enough other elected Republican officials across the country had done that too, maybe the damage to public trust would have been less harmful – and maybe not quite as many people would have answered Trump's summons to Washington and, just possibly, the events we saw at the Capitol would have been somewhat less alarming.

We don't know yet how badly truth, the rule of law, and democratic tradition have been wounded in the weeks since the election. But the troublingly large number of elected Republicans who stayed silent about Trump's lies bear a heavy responsibility for those wounds and the lasting consequences they are sure to have. If it's too late to escape that responsibility, though, it's still better to speak the truth than to remain silent, and I hope you will do so.

One other note about yesterday: I don't know if you watched any of the congressional proceedings before and after the interruption. I did, saw most of the debates – not every word, but enough to be fairly sure I am right that from beginning to end, no one mentioned a single verified example of voter fraud. Not one. Trump's stolen-election story will be very hard, quite probably impossible, to correct in the public mind. But that doesn't make it true, and beyond possible doubt, it isn't.

Sincerely
Arnold R. Isaacs
Pasadena