

January 14, 2016

Re: SOTU Response

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Governor Haley:

While I did not choose to listen or watch President Obama's State of the Union address Tuesday evening, I did eagerly and intently watch your response.

While I was in agreement with some of the points you made, there were other areas that I flatly disagree. Like you, I have been paying attention to what is going on (and what is NOT going on) in Washington. However, unlike you, I am beyond frustration. I am irate! I totally agree with your assessment that "the Democrats in Washington bear much responsibility for the problems facing America today, and they do not bear it alone". While I dislike what the Democrats represent, at least they do what they promise they will do. Republicans; not so much! Many Republicans, when running for election, sway with the wind and placate to the audience to which they are speaking, while privately thinking and later intending to do something different. Americans want nothing more than honesty and trustworthiness! I would be willing to say that like most Americans, you do not like being lied to and deceived either!

Main-street and middle-class Americans have been talking to Republican elected officials for years, but the politicians have not listened! We tried to talk "softly" and reasonably with them, but that approach is NOT working! The Republican Party has failed its constituency! Thus the reason Americans are angry! The more the "establishment" tries to demonize Donald Trump, the more that same establishment is causing his support to escalate!

Just as I truly believe President Obama, at least initially won the election due to the actions (and inactions) of President Bush and the Republican Party, I believe that Donald Trump gains popularity because of President Obama and the Republican Party! You will note that one group is present in both events! If Republicans cannot figure out why main-street Americans are disgusted and angry, they either do not care or they are completely out of touch with their constituency. If the former, they need to resign and if the latter, they need to get in the trenches with their constituency.

In your talk you stated that "Some people think that you have to be the loudest voice in the room to make a difference. That is just not true." Additionally, you stated "when the sound is quieter, you can actually hear what someone else is saying". I do not entirely agree with you. I have known some who speak very "softly", but their message is inarguably incoherent and baseless. For example, President Obama is a very good orator with a teleprompter, yet his message is incoherent, meaningless and often detrimental to America. I have worked for managers who are loud and boisterous even to the point of intimidation, yet have valid and meaningful points. I have learned to listen to and hear the words, not the delivery. In doing so, I have found that some of the greatest messages I have heard were from someone you might consider "loud".

I also was not happy that during a speech to respond the SOTU, you unfortunately decided to go after Donald Trump (and others), some of which are running as candidates for the President of the United States as Republicans, instead of going after the opposition and what harm they could present if elected. Shame on you and any pundits who supported that agenda! It would have been more beneficial to discuss recent terrorism in the United States and abroad, discuss this dismal economy and lay out steps the Republicans could initiate to recover from the detrimental effects of this administration. Additionally, I am saddened that you failed to even mention our ten sailors who were in the custody of Iran. Much like Republican congressional majorities, many missed opportunities.

Respectfully,



Eddie Collins
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