

Now the President of the United States has once again made a fool—and a mean fool, at that—of himself in a fit of temper, this time directed against a sixteen-year old girl who, because of her strong advocacy for action to slow the dangerous and escalating changes in the Earth’s climate has attracted world wide attention of the best kind. The metaphorical stamping of the feet that Trump has once again engaged in was probably brought about by the fact that Greta Thunberg is *Time* magazine’s Person of the Year, an honor the President undoubtedly thinks should have gone to him.

But, of course, Trump’s tweeted insults are nothing new, and it isn’t really Donald Trump who should have our attention. Instead, we should now direct our blame and focus on the Republicans who continue to support him. In the Senate, it will be very surprising if there is anything but a “mock” trial if, as expected, the House impeaches him. Lindsey Graham even said that he would not be an impartial juror—his mind was made up before the proceedings even begin. Interestingly, his attitude (on a number of issues) has completely flip-flopped from his views in the past.

So, are there still any hopes for this democracy? We must not give up, but we must not remain silent when our acquaintances make radical statements that defy constitutional provisions, and we must bring the knowledge about what our government is supposed to be down to real terms to our friends and neighbors.

Whatever one thinks about the specific policies of past administrations, whether one is a conservative, a liberal, or somewhere in between, can anyone really believe that the lack of decent behavior and paucity of civility in the current White House are good for the country? When the President’s wife—an immigrant whose parents then came to this country on her shirt tails (chain immigration)—doesn’t rebuke her husband for attacking a teenaged girl who has more intellect, good sense and ethics in her little finger than Trump has in his whole body—is she of her “Be Best” supposedly anti-bullying initiative any better? And Don Junior chimed in with his own crude opinion of Greta Thunberg’s worth to the world. How, as a country, did we attach ourselves to this unethical, crude, antagonistic, and unprincipled family?

We are currently reading a book about regenerative agriculture by Australian Charles Massy. He made a statement in an early chapter of the book regarding the mechanization and industrialization of agriculture that could be paraphrased to apply to life in general this year of 2019. The mind of man had gone rogue, he said. And that, by the twenty-first century, “it had gone rogue for the craziest of reasons and the most seductive of all illusions: consumption and greed.” Where can we go from here?