

There is nothing to say about the diatribes and crazy invective spewed forth by the bully in chief at the first Presidential “debate.” If any of Trump’s supporters could tell me what he said during that hour and a half that even remotely addressed his “accomplishments” during the past three and a half years, I’d be very surprised.

But, it makes me wonder about a few things. Not about Trump—he isn’t that hard to understand—a bully who cares only for himself, a pathological liar, and a person who sees himself as something very different from the way he is perceived by most of the world. We all know that there are people on this planet who have these qualities. Most of us can probably look back and put names on the ones who have appeared in our own lives. We have all seen these bullies for what they are, but we have never seen such a person in the position that Trump occupies. This is the problem. Nearly all of us, in our daily exchanges with other people, recognize these undesirable traits, but avoid those folks or work around them if we must.

What I do wonder about is why more Americans have not learned the basic principles of government—what the various branches do, what their responsibilities are, what controls there are on their powers, and how they are supposed to relate to the American populace. Did none of Trump’s followers ever listen or read the lessons that we all had in civics or government classes? It isn’t, as the overused phrase goes, “rocket science.” No supporters of any candidate, including Trump, should ever consider even trying to disrupt the democratic election process.

I think a lot, too, about the United States Senate. The Republicans who refused to even hold hearings for President Barack Obama’s choice for the Supreme Court—with nearly a year until the next Presidential election—saying that the next President should have that appointment to make, but now who are planning to hurry through a Supreme Court nominee for Trump’s pick with a month to go before the election—how can it be possible that these people have no ethical standards at all, and how can it be that many of them will be re-elected by constituents who should understand this?

And, with a lot of these folks, I also have to wonder if they are completely without shame. They seem content to live on the taxpayers, drawing salaries provided by their constituents and yet feel no obligation to pass legislation to aid these people in their home districts and states with relief in this Covid 19 crisis. And, on top of begrudging any help during the pandemic, they are also aiming to repeal the Affordable Care Act, an action that will result in millions of Americans facing an uncertain future with no health insurance. Alongside these actions, many of them are also reaping the profits available through their “connections” with lobbyists and others.

Every American citizen, regardless of political affiliation, religious beliefs, race, ethnicity, or any other factors, must insist that the results of this election be accepted. No President of the United States has any business deciding that his own opinion on the election’s results is a determining—or even a pertinent—factor in deciding who will be the next occupant of the White House. Any other response means the end of democracy in this country.

