

It is odd how the past sometimes collides with today—a pleasant memory brings to mind something in the here and now that may or not be enjoyable. This happened to me this morning.

I opened the gate for Runo to drive into the Maple Tree Field with a bale of hay for the sheep. Then, I went back to our yard and opened the gate for the dogs. I walked back to the pasture gate, thinking I'd just as well stand there the few minutes it takes to roll out that bale of hay and wait to close the gate for Runo when he came back.

The dogs were not happy that I had left them in the yard. Both of them barked, but Blue has a piercing voice that often mimics a coyote. This time, though, she was just loudly voicing her disapproval of being away from whatever action might take place.

The woods in Section 19, across the road from us, make a perfect echo chamber. Every one of Blue's frantic barks was repeated loudly and exactly. It was as though there was another barking dog down the lane and across the road.

I remembered, then, when my dad, Einar, taught me about echoes. I was pretty little, but he stood there on the knoll and hollered, "Hello!" And, shockingly to me, someone yelled "Hello!" back to him. Then, he explained what had happened. I am not sure if he later regretted his teaching moment, but it must have been a little hard on the nerves hearing a small girl screaming at the woods off and on for days, until the echo phenomenon was no longer compelling.

What I heard this past week was more than an assault on my nerves. After praising President Zelensky in the forenoon, many Republicans—especially Secretary of State Marco Rubio and South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham—left behind any ethics or morals they have remaining when they reversed their views as soon as they heard the shameful, hateful, and absolutely wrong assault on the President of Ukraine by Donald Trump and J.D. Vance. They stood in that echo chamber and parroted back the hateful, immoral rhetoric of Trump and Vance. The complete absence of integrity among Republicans in Congress has surprised me. I guess it should not. After all, they have shown their absolute fealty to a felon who was also under indictment for supporting an insurrection and for stealing classified documents. How have we come to this point?