

There is a common term these days that we never heard when we were growing up. Now, when children misbehave, have tantrums, or sulk, they are often given a “time out.” I don’t know if this works better than the “talking to” that I remember for doing something I should not have done, or, more commonly, for *not* doing something that I was told to do. (I was usually reading a book when this happened and was not amenable to leaving that pleasure for some task I was assigned.). I suppose that either method might work with most children.

How, though, should it work with supposedly responsible adults? What should be done to straighten out an old man who repeatedly: 1—assumes powers he does not legally possess? 2—insults friends and neighbors? 3—announces plans to steal possessions of other countries? 4—kicks out randomly selected immigrants for no apparent reason? 5—picks fights with both friends and adversaries? 6—endangers the U.S. and other countries by disparaging allies? 7—threatens Americans with loss of social security benefits? 8—imposes arbitrary tariffs that send the economy into distress? 9—takes up with the most horrible friends and lets them make decisions they are both unqualified and not elected or appointed to make? 10—employs unqualified people to run the country’s departments? 11—closes the agencies that send help from us to countries all over the world?

There are endless ways in which Donald Trump is endangering this country and the whole world. It is impossible to deal with all of them in one short essay. But, just as a teacher might say to a bully, “Leave other children alone!”, we all need to say to Trump, “Leave other countries alone!”

Canada is our best friend. Here in Michigan, we have three international bridges connecting our state with Canada. Many of us go back and forth regularly, working and enjoying cross border life. Ontario license plates are almost as common on our summer roadways as plates from other states of this country. And, I understand that many Canadian “snowbirds” spend winters in the southern part of our country. It is not ours! Trump—LEAVE CANADA ALONE!

Greenland is not ours. It is an autonomous territory in the Kingdom of Denmark. Its citizens are citizens of Denmark and of the European Union. It is not ours! Trump—LEAVE GREENLAND ALONE!

We returned the Canal Zone to the country of Panama at the end of 1999. It is not ours! Trump—LEAVE PANAMA ALONE!

We need to deal with bullies. If we do not, their bad behavior escalates and makes more misery for everyone. What should be done with a bully like Donald Trump? Both actions and rhetoric need changing. The only real solution is impeachment in the House of Representatives and conviction in the U.S. Senate. This would result in his removal from office with no option of holding such a position again. Senator Mitch McConnell could have allowed this to happen in 2020. He chose not to proceed with a trial in the Senate after two impeachments by the House of Representatives. That is his legacy. And that is why the midterm election of 2026 is so important.

And, as for the heated and barbaric speech that comes from Trump's mouth, perhaps he also needs the treatment I recall well. Even a mild bar of Ivory Soap leaves its memory behind and makes a person think twice before adopting the language of insults, lies, and pure rancor.