

## Condescension

(A warning to the establishment about the fraying lifeline of fallacious belief.)

Bernie Sanders had won Wisconsin. Too frustrated with CNN's pathological need to call races with 1% returns, I had chosen to watch the coverage on MSNBC. Chris Matthews made no effort to hide his disdain for the voters. Yes, I understand that Chris Matthews is known for pursuing whatever line of inquiry is most likely to stir the pot, but where Senator Sanders was concerned it would have been nice for a supposedly liberal news organization to recognize that a cauldron of substantive content is out there to fill your time slot. Rather than addressing real issues and equally representing candidates, Matthews treated the supporters of this presidential candidate with dripping condescension and Clintonesque annoyance.

At the end of the broadcast, he went around his circle of pundits. Their commentary also demonstrated an unapologetic bias toward the establishment candidate, but on this occasion, a few of them actually attempted to make valid and complimentary points about Senator Sanders' string of wins, his momentum, and the true state of the democratic contest. All were shut down immediately if they attempted to frame the Sanders campaign as anything other than an aberration or a novelty. When closing the broadcast, Matthews asked his panel to rate each candidate's chances of winning the nomination and most of the pundits had valid points to make about each candidate in the overall Presidential race, except Bernie Sanders who had just won the state from which the farce was being broadcast. Matthews had wasted so much time bloviating about nothing of substance that he ended by saying something to the effect of, "Oops,

we forgot to get to Bernie, goodnight folks.” The Senator had just won the Wisconsin primary by double digits after eliminating a double digit lead held by Secretary Clinton just two weeks earlier, but Chris Matthews couldn’t be bothered to remember he was running?

That night in Wisconsin was and is indicative of the myopic denial which resulted in a Trump presidency. Chris Matthews is an excellent example of establishment tone deafness and narcissism. In the world according to Chris Matthews, and by extension the democratic establishment, the mantra went something like this: “Senator Sanders’ supporters can’t actually be voting for a president.” He repeated this, over and over as if to convince himself, if not his viewers, that “People who voted for Bernie couldn’t possibly have wanted him to win.” Could this attitude be more condescending or clueless? Not only did we want him to win the primary, we expected him to win the presidency.

Counter to Chris Hayes’ half-a-loaf assertions that Campaign office staffers told him they did not expect the candidate’s policies to ever truly be adopted, throughout a long and emotionally charged campaign, I never once met a Sanders campaign staffer who was supporting him with the idea that his call for universal single payer healthcare, expansion of the public education system, the breaking up of Wall Street banks, or an end to a corrupt campaign finance system were some sort of pie in the sky starting points intended to precede a protracted bargaining process. If we wanted toothless legislation we would have supported the establishment candidate, rather than turning out by the tens of thousands to answer the Senator’s rallying cry.

Those who supported Senator Sanders did so because they wanted him to lead this

country into an era of prosperity, equality, compassion, and continued promise. The corporate media cannot conceive of an America where the people stand up and demand their voices be heard in the political process. They don't get it. They don't get that a Sanders administration would not have been one where the movement disappeared after placing our chosen leader into the White House. The election was always meant to be the beginning of the process not the end. Such a partnership could be possible. When we have the courage to elect a President who unflinchingly welcomes active engagement of the people in their government, not just when his back is against the wall, or to score political points, but continually, change will come.

Members of the ideologically entrenched establishment call to mind the least effective sort of history teacher. Their tests would be all about dates and names and charts. These dates, names, and charts would represent a myriad of factoid talking points memorized by rote. They would care little about providing the connection or context necessary to look more deeply than their own inflated sense of self importance and steadfast commitment to opinion as fact. The assertion that they are equal opportunity bloviators isn't an acceptable rationale.

They don't understand that people are answering a call to social justice and a reboot of the relationships between the elected and those who voted for them.

How do you get the house to pass legislation addressing the campaign finance atrocity? Show up by the thousands in monument square and demand it. If they don't get the hint, drive the point home at the ballot box. It's called democracy, and it's the only way our government has ever enacted substantive change. Perhaps we should give it a try.

The establishment doesn't get that we want a Commander in Chief with sound

judgement, not a corporate criminal with a power-for-profit agenda and a war for profit mentality. We want a leader who will indeed lead us forward rather than hold us back; who will encourage us to reach for lofty goals and find ways to attain them rather than reaching for the crumbs that fall from the tables of corporate elites and congressional cronies.

The political establishment cannot conceive of a president who represents the people and through that leadership inspires them to action; not with platitudes, but with TRUTH. Sanders' supporters understood that if we want to fulfill the promise of our nation, we must be willing to fight for that promise. The beltway elites cannot fathom a constituency that is willing to rise to the occasion. Sanders Progressives are not lazy, or uneducated, or ill informed. They are perhaps the most well informed constituency in history.

The Sanders constituency is not comprised solely of millennials, or white men. The Sanders Constituency is not a group of snowflakes wanting free stuff, they want their tax dollars spent on things that benefit taxpayers rather than tax dodging corporate elites. Progressives are not ignorant of the world or voting to send some sort of petulant message. They are the children of the Carter years, and the Reagan years. They are the thousand points of light, and those who's first ballots elected Bill Clinton. They are the Gen Xers who elected Gore and instead were given Bush. They are those who proudly made history by electing an African American organizer from Chicago only to see that vote for change be crushed under partisan Jack Boots of obstructionism, racism, and greed, which march in lock-step through the political establishment.

They are doctors, lawyers, professors, and Truck drivers. They are nurses, and dishwashers, housewives, and steel workers. They are Seniors living out their final years by

counting out pennies to buy groceries at the dollar store. They are 99% of the American electorate who has been yearning for a candidate that will bind us together in solidarity and lead us toward action and self determination. They may never have the chance to elect such a candidate again and they're not leaving. Their business is not yet done.

That's what Chris Matthews, his corporate masters, and establishment democrats don't get. Autocrats and incrementalists have not led our great nation to fulfill a fraction of its promise. Sanders Progressives yearn to elect a president who is not afraid to be a disturber of the counterfeit peace. For any peace which is propagated on a people being passive and divided is truly counterfeit.

They are coming together now. It's time to get to work. They're not leaving. Their business is not yet done.

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