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The case for impeaching Trump and removing him from office

There are countless reasons to impeach Trump immediately. Among them, the following:

He abused his power and promoted an act of terrorism and sedition that is a crime and impeachable; doing so would make him the only president to be impeached twice.

The Republicans need to be pressed to go on record and it’s worthwhile giving them a do-over.

If the Senate does convict, they could also have him barred from ever holding federal office.

The original abuse of power impeachment involving Ukraine can be re-litigated (there’s no double jeopardy when it comes to impeachment and with Democrats in control of the Senate, all the evidence can be presented and Bolton forced to testify).

And it’s always good and healthy for a democracy to do the right thing.

Eugene D. Cohen, Phoenix

Listen to Lincoln: ‘With malice toward none; with charity for all’

The violent incursion at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday disrespected, demeaned and threatened the right of every citizen who peaceably engages in the democratic process in our country.

Deliberation, debate, argument, compromise, deal-making: these are the means to advance interests in a democracy. The leaders of Valley Interfaith Project, like our sister organizations of the West/Southwest IAF, teach and practice these political skills every day.

VIP leaders do this by vigorously engaging on the issues that impact our families and traveling regularly to the Arizona State Capitol, city halls throughout Maricopa County, local school boards, and decision-making chambers to advance these issues.

That the buildings and halls of power belong to them is made self-evident in their consistent and persistent presence throughout years of effort. Their work is carried out through hundreds of conversations full of respectful dissent, concession, and sometimes victory; in other words, democratically.

What happened yesterday at the U.S. Capitol not only endangered the officials, staff members and public safety officers who were present, but endangered our democratic institutions by introducing violence to what has, until now, been a tradition of a peaceful transfer of power in our national leadership.

As a network of religious, labor, education and community leaders from all walks of life and all political persuasions, we condemn these acts of insurrection and violence in Washington, D.C., and recall the words of Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address at the conclusion of the Civil War:

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan -- to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

Rev. Rock Fremont Monica Dorsey, For the Valley Interfaith Project

Trump supporters who won’t be satisfied by the lack of evidence

Those who believe that the election was stolen from Donald Trump by fraudulent means have reached that conclusion based purely on emotion.

They wanted Trump to win, so if he didn’t win, it must be fraud.

Then they set out to find evidence to support their belief, rather than developing belief from evidence. The psychological term for this process is “rationalization.”

Now their problem is that they haven’t been able to find evidence, but instead of concluding that the belief is wrong, they continue to search for evidence. They disregard and reject all explanations, all evidence that contradicts their belief.

No investigation by congressional committee, no forensic audit, will satisfy them that there is no evidence to support their conclusion because it is wrong, even though it is wrong, and rational people recognize that the election was free and fair.

They end up like Lou Dobbs, saying they know fraud happened but are having a hard time finding tangible proof of what they know to be true.

Why? Because it’s not true, of course.

Phyllis Hutchings, Phoenix

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