

Republican Perspective
1 February 2017
by Ed Manning

ON THE WRONG SIDE OF HISTORY

"The first quality that is needed is audacity." Sir Winston Churchill

Over sixty Congressional Democrats chose not to attend the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States. It's unfortunate that it included our Congressman, Mark DeSaulnier.

DeSaulnier should study the election of 1800 between Thomas Jefferson and Samuel Adams. The birth of negative campaigning started with this presidential tussle. Yale's Professor of History, Joanne Freeman provides us with a glimpse of this election. From the start it was a very nasty campaign.

President Adams was a Federalist and his Vice-President, Jefferson a Republican. Jefferson's camp accused President Adams of having a "hideous hermaphroditical character, which has neither the force and firmness of a man, nor the gentleness and sensibility of a woman." In return, Adams' men called Vice President Jefferson "a mean-spirited, low-lived fellow, the son of a half-breed Indian squaw, sired by a Virginia mulatto father." As the slurs piled on, President Adams was labeled a fool, a hypocrite, a criminal, and a tyrant, while Jefferson was branded a weakling, an atheist, a libertine, and a coward. Even Martha Washington succumbed to the propaganda, telling a clergyman that Jefferson was "one of the most detestable of mankind."

In 1800, our Constitution was uncertain. Jefferson believed the Federalists would destroy the states and create a national government. A government every bit as oppressive as that which Great Britain had tried to impose on the colonists before 1776. In the end, Jefferson won the heated contest. Adams was portrayed as a monarchist who had turned his back on republicanism; he was called senile, a poor judge of character, vain, jealous and driven by an "ungovernable temper."

One question loomed large. Would Adams acknowledge the election results and transition the power of the Presidency to Jefferson? Despite campaign mudslinging, and a close election, President John Adams transitioned this power. Neither Federalists nor Republicans boycotted the inauguration.

Democrat boycotters should have followed the lead of Hillary Clinton. Mrs. Clinton's inaugural attendance showed her knowledge of American history. She tweeted: "I'm here today to honor our democracy and its endearing values. I will never stop believing in our country and its future." She earned our gratitude.

The Democrat Party's radical Left tried its best to disrupt the inauguration and its festivities. They smashed business windows and burned cars, including Larry King's! #DisruptJ20 was the umbrella group spearheading the havoc. Here are a few of these extremists and workshops leading up to the inauguration:

- Bystanders Intervention Training (oxymoron?): participants learn the basics on bystander intervention within the context of Islamophobia; learn to recognize subtle signs of aggressive behavior. Workshop led by Noor Mir, who holds a B.S. from Vassar. Ms. Mir is the former anti-drone coordinator for Code Pink.
- DeColonize the S__t & Let's Move: a discussion on the process of unlearning white and western thought and the importance of this process from everyday life to community organizing.
- Facts of Organizing Training: led by Robby Diesu, an organizer, trainer, and movement queen who is a member of the DC Action Lab Collective. The training will help give participants the skills to understand the importance of transformative as opposed to transactional organizing.
- Fascism 101 & Lessons Learned for Today's Movement Strategy: Walda Katz-Fishman is a movement organizer and professor of sociology at Howard University. In this workshop participants will develop our movement analysis of fascism in the US as a racial and gendered corporate and military state, and its relation to capitalism in the current political moment and the 2017 Trump presidency.

These are just a sampling of the workshops being conducted. Others were being held by anarchist and communist groups. There is plenty of time for partisan politics, but the transfer of power in our republic is not one of them.