

Fascism's Foul Spirit

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 10.07.21

On 9/11's 20th Anniversary, President Bush spoke of a "malign force" robbing us of the unity we felt then: "Our politics has become a naked appeal to anger, fear, and resentment." When he called foreign and domestic extremists "children of the same foul spirit," a disgraced, twice impeached Florida man took it personally.

President Trump, unnamed by Bush, angrily replied. He lied about Bush calling "terrorists on the 'right'" a "bigger problem" than "those from foreign countries" —Bush never mentioned "the right." He spread fear of foreigners "pouring into our Country." He stoked resentment, calling Bush a "failed" president who "shouldn't be lecturing anybody." Lies, anger, fear, and resentment: the shoe fit, so Trump wore it.

Trump won't accept election results unless he wins, talks of becoming President for life, and calls insurrectionists "very special." This is the "foul spirit" Bush named. Its other name is fascism.

Evidence of Trump's ongoing plot to steal the election keeps emerging. In December, he pressured the Justice Department: "Just say that the election was corrupt + leave the rest to me and the R. Congressmen." Trump's lawyer, John Eastman, drafted the blueprint. Step 3 had Vice President Pence literally throwing out the votes from seven states.

On January 5, Trump pressured Pence, who said he didn't have the authority. Trump tempted: "But wouldn't it be almost cool to have that power?" "I wouldn't want any one person to have that authority," Pence said. The next day, Trump and Eastman urged the mob to "fight like hell" and hurled them at the Capitol.

The coup failed, but not before Rep. David Rouzer and 146 Republicans followed Trump's dictate, shamefully voting against certification.

We must reject fascism, by holding accountable Trump, Rouzer, and everyone who incited, enabled, or participated in the insurrection.

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