

It's Useful to Know the Arguments Trump Supporters Make About Their Man

Researching and writing this column has given me an insight which many readers don't have into what Trump supporters believe to be true about their candidate and what they are being told about Joe Biden. In addition to sampling Fox News (the primary diet of Trump supporters), I get lengthy emails from readers who are under the president's spell — and who will remain under his spell no matter what the president says or does between now and the election on Nov. 3rd.

I have identified *three principal themes* to the Trump campaign strategy — and that approach will work for his unquestioning and sheltered "base." These themes are reinforced and given legitimacy by the base's sources of information and opinion — the president's tweets, Trump-promoting media like Fox News Channel, and emailed memes and narratives which are forwarded unquestioned by millions of Trump followers. (See two examples at right and find lots more at www.JimSmithBlog.com.)

The three themes I have identified are: **First**, that Donald Trump, the "very stable genius," has kept his campaign promises, revived a stalled economy inherited from Obama, and has been wrongly attacked (and spied upon illegally) from even before he took office. **Second**, Joe Biden is senile, can't put two sentences together, and will be a puppet to supporters who are socialists/communists/Marxists (who "hate" America). **Third**, the country is under attack from

out-of-control looters and rioters in Democratically-controlled cities. This third theme is reinforced daily by Fox News, which consistently focuses on this violence and especially on the injuries sustained by police officers. Anyone watching their reports would think this violence is far more widespread than it is and would naturally applaud Trump for sending in unidentified federal officers in unmarked vehicles to, in effect, kidnap demonstrators, who they immediately release because they can't charge them with a federal crime.

To counter theme #2, I would like Joe Biden to request a *town hall program on Fox News*, and speak out if he is denied such an opportunity. Pete Buttigieg was given that opportunity by Fox and did an excellent job of countering whatever negative narratives viewers may have had about him. How could Fox justify denying the same opportunity to Biden? Since theme #2 is that Biden is senile and "doesn't know he's alive" according to Trump, a town hall meeting would be a perfect opportunity — better than a debate with Trump — to counter that narrative.

I haven't addressed theme #1 due to space limitations, but I'll flesh out all three themes on my blog.

And then, of course, there are the conspiracy theories propagated online and in Trump's tweets, which are too numerous to mention here. I'll write more about them on my blog, too.

Talking Turkey



By JIM SMITH



Odd it is. Nazis, were National Socialists that tore down statues. Banned free speech. Blamed economic hardships on one group of people. Instituted gun control. Put the state before God. Nationalized health care. Placed strict government regulations on industry.

Does this sound like the policies of a current political party in the U.S.?

Although Trump supporters aren't inclined to do so, I recommend Googling each outrageous claim sent to you, or go directly to www.Snoopes.com to get the background and truth. Whether it's "too good to be true" or "too bad to be true," it probably is *not* true. Did Bill deBlasio change his name from Warren Wilhelm, Jr.? Yes, he did, and for good reasons. His nickname was Will, and when his mother divorced his abusive father, she and he took her maiden name. My dad, born Abbott O'Brion, and his mother did the same after she divorced my grandfather.

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