

THE ABSENT BLACK REPUBLICAN CONSCIENCE

Black Republicans have a moral responsibility to be the conscience of the Republican Party. As Black Republicans we have collectively failed to articulate a defiant voice of Republican betrayal to the core issues of importance to African Americans, people of color and the national interest.

The current deafening silence among Black Republicans is an unprecedented abdication of historic voices that bravely stood against the historic barriers suppressing Black economic, social and political upward mobility. The safeguarding of the hard fought gains in civil rights *uniquely* remains *our* sacred historic duty as Black Republicans.

If we are honest and look inward at ourselves, we Black Republicans are not respected. Black Democrats view us as racial traitors and clowning buffoons. White liberals openly attack and ridicule us for being Republican. If as Black Republicans there is among us a desperate sense of loneliness we must accept the fault lies largely with us. We have failed to distinguish our political substance within the Republican Party.

Those of us who served as presidential or political appointees followed the example of George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush not to criticize a sitting President. Let me remind you Present George W. Bush negated that example seconds after President Trump completed his inaugural address.

We need the voice of former General, Secretary of State and U. S. Ambassador Colin Powell to reintroduce the importance of the Atlantic Alliance that has managed global affairs since the end of World War II. We need the voice of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who has a PhD in Russian to remind the nation why Russia has been and remains a perennial threat to US democracy and global stability.

We are missing the quiet voice and sage counsel of former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso Jackson who understands the critical importance of implementing and executing a national urban policy. There are others such as former U S Congressman JC Watts who two years ago on Meet The Press stated his "conscience would not allow him to remain silent on Charlottesville". U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina the lone African American in the Senate recently called President Trump's tweets "unacceptable and racially offensive."

Where is the political moral challenge from other Black Republicans of conscience when children are ripped from their mothers, and families separated and caged liked animals? Least we forget how Black families during slavery were separated, caged, and denied humane treatment. Do we not remember our historic discrimination and the long hard fight for civil rights?

Where is the outrage from Black Republicans when the President of the United States tells four members of the U.S. Congress who are of color, three of whom were born in the United States to go back to their own country? Is this not a repugnant refrain from the past stony road we have trod as African Americans?

Why must we primarily only hear the voice of Democrats to fight the battles for freedom, equality and opportunity? Where are our voices as Black Republicans about voter suppression especially in the South? Are we so weak, complacent, and afraid to take a stand against the mismanaging of America and the democratic process? Why are we the heirs to the Party of Lincoln acquiescing our voices to challenge those within the Republican Party?

Are we so starved for acceptance and recognition to be part of the Republican Club that we have become blind and numb to current injustices and political negligence? Have we become indifferent to the core destruction and values taking place within the Grand Old Party? Has our loneliness as Black Republicans within the GOP stifled our resolved to challenge and openly engage the fight for the noble American ideals so many have sacrificed their reputation, financial security and lives.

We, Black Republicans must embrace our heritage to the historic legacy of Black Republicans who served the nation, fought for freedom, justice, civil rights and economic opportunity. We must not let their work be undone, ignored or cast asunder.

So let us begin anew. Lets us, we few, accept our responsibility to be the moral conscience of the Republican Party. Let us go forth to foster yet another new birth of freedom with our voices as Black Republicans signifying that we too speak America.

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