

# Freedom's View

A Commentary on Government from Atop the Capitol

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## REQUIEM FOR A GRAND OLD PARTY

Conservative columnist Michael Gerson writes<sup>1</sup> about the "collusion" between Donald Trump's most senior advisers and a Russian lawyer with ties to the Kremlin promising to provide them with damaging information about Hillary Clinton at a meeting in 2016. Gerson describes the subsequent denials, and the banal "business as usual" explanations of the President and his administration as part of a "toxic atmosphere" for which Trump is fully responsible. He describes Trumpism as "an easygoing belief system that indulges and excuses the stiffing of contractors, the conning of students, the bilking of investors, the exploitation of women and the practices of nepotism and self-dealing. A faith that makes losing a sin will make cheating a sacrament." He says that, "the most shocking thing is that no one on the Trump side was shocked. The most offensive thing is that no one took offense."

Indeed. For conservatism "is characterized by respect for American traditions, support for Judeo-Christian values, economic liberalism, anti-communism, and a defense of Western culture."<sup>2</sup> But where, oh where, are the "conservative" congressional GOP members who are standing up in vocal opposition to this denigration and deconstruction of our system of government and the traditions and values upon which it is based?

Unless the GOP challenges Trump's amoral, winning-is-all-that-matters behavior, they will put the country's welfare at further risk and insure the death of the GOP itself. They will ratify the views of their critics, exemplified by the ones below:

"The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness." ~John Kenneth Galbraith

"Conservatism discards Prescription, shrinks from Principle, disavows Progress; having rejected all respect for antiquity, it offers no redress for the present, and makes no preparation for the future." ~Benjamin Disraeli

"(Republicans) blame the low-income women for ruining the country because they are staying home with their children and not going out to work. They blame the middle-income women for ruining the country because they go out to work and do not stay home to take care of their children." ~Ann Richards

"Conservatives remind me of Yosemite Sam, Wile E. Coyote, and Elmer Fudd. They bring the guns, the stupidity, and of course, the failure."

— Stephen D. Foster, Jr.

Herewith, then, is a song we offer to be sung at the GOP's funeral service.

### A Finger to the Wind

Armed Freedom July 14, 2017

TUNE: "Candle in the Wind"

Goodbye, old GOP foes;  
you *could* have grown in our hearts.  
But you had no grace and placed yourselves  
where values played no part.  
You forgot about the country,  
and all the sick who live in pain.  
Now you have no place in heaven:  
the stars spell out your shame.  
And it seems to me you lived your life  
with your fingers to the wind:  
never doing what *you knew* was right  
before the votes were in.  
Your footsteps will always stumble from  
your support of cruel bills;  
your once bright light has now burned out:  
your sad legend never will.  
Yes, it seems to me you've spent your life  
with a finger to the wind;  
forgetting what to cling to  
when the dangerous reign set in.  
Once, I had liked to know you,  
back when I was just a kid;  
you took an oath to support us *all*:  
but you never did.  
Yes, it seems to me you've spent your light,  
with your fingers to the wind.



<sup>1</sup> July 13, 2017, *The Washington Post* and it is essential reading in its entirety.

<sup>2</sup> *Wikipedia*, "Conservatism – United States."