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APLAC

3/2/26

Relevancy Again and Again

When the President of the United States of America encouraged the spread of exaggerated and blatantly false claims like, “they are eating the dogs. The people that came in, they are eating the cats. They’re eating – they are eating the pets of the people,” citizens listened. Donald Trump’s claims gave credence to his previous and equally outlandish claims that other countries are sending immigrants who are, “poisoning the blood of our country.” This hateful rhetoric has vilified all immigrants in this country and specifically caused white conservatives to fear anyone who is different. These paranoid Americans have rallied behind such accusations and pushed for a return to America first and America only value system which promotes their exclusionary beliefs. As a result of the fear created by Trump’s corruption of truth, that America is under attack by immigrants, America is primed to return to an age of inequity and social division with the full support of a terrified following.

Conservatives, and those who believe they are conservative are the first to rally around Trump’s attack on immigrants and his cry to “Make America Great Again.” Trump’s accusations have motivated this group of supporters to secure the borders, and to deport anyone in the country illegally, perceived rapists, drug dealers, criminals, pet eaters, child abusers. Under the rallying cry of, “Build a Wall” Trump began the leader of the country. He then used his platform of authority to continue to promote an agenda of us vs them under the guise of national security. He used threats from terrorist organizations, which constitute only a small portion of a country’s

population, as reasoning to fear all. His goal of making the country great *again* is a manipulative ask recalling eras of development and prosperity through conquest; times that were, in reality, built upon the backs of immigrants.

Evangelicals, and those who believe themselves to be Christian, have joined forces against immigration with equal vigor. Rather than practice the Christian value of compassion, Evangelicals have been encouraged to fear immigrants as a threat to the religious morals they value. Trump's unsubstantiated claims that immigrants are, "rapists" who are "bringing drugs," and "bringing crime" into the country stand in direct conflict to Christian morals. This perceived threat has been espoused by Christian leaders as a consequence of religious difference, an all Muslims are terrorists type of xenophobia. The same leaders have manipulated the narrative to include an attack on Christians themselves calling for a return to a culture of puritanical and fundamental interpretations of Christianity, reversing years of progressive civil rights work for women, the LGBTQIA community, and the racial minority.

The elite, and those who believe in the dream of building wealth through hard work, fear that immigrants are, taking jobs from American citizens, are freeloading on the taxpayer's dime and are threatening our economy. This corruption of truth ignores the simple fact that migrant workers are simply essential to our economy's success, not a threat. Immigrants, in America both legally and illegally are contributing to financially to the country's progress. Many of the jobs American's despise because of strenuous working environments and little pay are happily filled by immigrants. This allows companies and manufacturers to keep production costs low and pass those benefits on to the consumer. This may be a simplified version of the complex economic dynamic, but it is also a forgotten truth that immigrants actually pay taxes, purchase goods and services, and positively contribute to American economics. The fear that an American cannot

maintain their wealth or will not be able to achieve wealth as the fundamental basis of capitalism is absurd; how did the elite become the elite in this country in the first place? Immigrants built their wealth.

In the late 1800s the threat of witchcraft was used to manipulate and control Puritan communities. In the mid 1950s this fear mongering was repeated by the U.S. government in an unsubstantiated attack on communists, a perceived threat to democracy. Today American's have been fanatically goaded into believing immigrants are a terrorist threat to jobs, opportunity, wealth, safety, and freedom through political propaganda. When will we learn that authority corrupts? When will reasoning and logic ever prevail? When will we realize the enemy is our own hysteria, our own mob of emotion.