

Correspondence with Senator Bryan Simonaire, Delegate Nic Kipke and Councilman Nathan Volke, Nov-Dec 2020

NOTE: This string includes messages prior to my letter of December 21, which is posted separately.

11/15/2020 2:34 PM (Arnold Isaacs to Bryan Simonaire and Nic Kipke. Subject: please speak truth about the election. Sent essentially the same message to Councilman Volke five days later.)

Dear Senator Simonaire and Delegate Kipke -- As your constituent I ask both of you: if you haven't done so already, PLEASE follow Governor Hogan's example and publicly declare that Joseph Biden won the presidential election and you will respect that result.

The governor's response was the right one, not only in recognizing simple truth and the most fundamental principle of democratic government, but also in setting an honorable example for all other Republicans.

The evidence overwhelmingly contradicts the contention that the election was fraudulent. As you must be aware, nearly two weeks after Election Day NO facts have emerged that even remotely substantiate any allegation of any significant fraud, much less fraud on a scale that would reverse the result. There is no realistic expectation that new information will change that conclusion.

Continuing to promote the false charge of a rigged election will undermine public trust and do serious harm to the legitimacy of American institutions. It is deeply regrettable that so many Republicans are helping promote that dangerous falsehood, either by associating themselves with it or remaining silent while it spreads. As the party's leader in our state, Governor Hogan is an admirable exception. I hope you will join him.

Sincerely,
Arnold R. Isaacs
Pasadena

11/20/2020 9:23 AM (Arnold Isaacs to Councilman Nathan Volke, effectively the same message as above)

11/22/2020 11:24 AM (Isaacs to Simonaire and Kipke)

Dear Senator Simonaire and Delegate Kipke -- A full week has passed since I wrote asking both of you to publicly speak out on the result of the presidential election. I have

not received a reply from either of you, and if either has made any statement in the meantime I am not aware of it.

I assume you must believe one of two things: one, that the possibility of verifying a fraudulent election is strong enough that the president should rightly keep refusing to concede, or two, that fraud claims on a large enough scale to change the outcome are not realistic and will not be substantiated, and that Joe Biden was legitimately elected.

In the first case, you should tell your constituents and your Republican colleagues exactly what concrete evidence you are aware of and why you believe it may be credible. In the second, if your personal judgment is that Biden was the rightful winner, you should declare that publicly. As elected officials and part of this state's Republican leadership, you have a compelling obligation to state your position without more delay. The time for silence has passed. Staying silent will only intensify division and loss of public trust and is no longer an honorable option.

Sincerely, Arnold R. Isaacs

11/22/2020 11:37 AM (Kipke to Isaacs)

Arnold, I'm not in a position to know the truth and neither are you. There's a legal process that's taking place in response to the President's concerns. While that process takes place it allows for evidence or the lack of evidence to be evaluated in a court or courts of law. If there was or was not voter fraud it should be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law. It doesn't matter who you voted for, we all deserve an election we can have confidence in.

Sincerely, Nic

11/22/2020 11:36 AM (Simonaire to Isaacs)

Arnold, I believe and agree with Delegate Kipke when he publicly and concisely said we should count every legal vote and let the process play out. Fairly or unfairly, I believe there is enough doubt about fraud in the election process now that we need to have it investigated to restore the faith in our election or identify where fraud exists and fix it.

There are a myriad of opinions on this topic at the federal level and I am focusing on state issues which include putting safeguards in our election process that are not there now. I am also preparing for the upcoming session to deal with COVID-19 and the numerous associated effects on our state.

Bryan

11/22/2020 1:57 PM (Isaacs to Kipke and Simonaire)

Dear Delegate Kipke and Senator Simonaire -- Thank you both for the quick replies.

Mr. Kipke, knowing the definitive truth about whether "there was or was not voter fraud" is not the same thing as judging whether there is a plausible claim that fraud changed the outcome of the election -- plausible enough to justify continuing to refuse to acknowledge the result.

You did not answer my question whether you have any concrete information that would suggest such a conclusion. Do you know about any evidence that has emerged since the election that points to fraud on that scale? Do you see any realistic possibility that Trump will be shown to be the winner? If you do, what facts -- not allegations -- do you base that opinion on? If you don't, how much longer do you think it is acceptable to wait before saying out loud who we should agree won the election?

Mr. Simonaire, do you believe "there is enough doubt about fraud in the election process" to raise a real question about which candidate won? I will ask you the same questions: if that's your belief, what do you base it on, and how long an elected official can properly put off declaring and explaining his conclusion on the result.

I am open to any new facts either of you may want to share, which I think you owe not just to me but much more importantly to the public. Yes, Mr. Kipke, we deserve an election we can have confidence in. We do NOT deserve elected officials attempting to destroy that confidence without fully and openly explaining their reasons.

I appreciate your reading and responding to my letter. Hope you will see your way to state your views and the reasons for them publicly before too much more time passes.

Sincerely
Arnold Isaacs

11/22/2020 2:02 PM (Kipke to Isaacs)

Mr. Isaacs, As I previously stated, I don't know and we'll just have to see what comes of the allegations. Have a nice weekend. Nic

11/22/2020 3:48 PM (Isaacs to Kipke and Simonaire)

I had not intended to prolong this exchange, but just spent maybe 15 minutes or so browsing the news and found these items that I cannot keep myself from passing along for your possible consideration. These are critiques from Chris Christie, the National Review's Andrew McCarthy, Pennsylvania Senator Patrick Toomey and Trump's former

national security adviser H.R. McMaster -- not exactly left-wing ideologues or socialist or antifa rabble-rousers. Here's the list:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/22/politics/chris-christie-donald-trump-election/index.html>

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/11/judge-finds-the-fatal-flaw-in-trump-campaigns-pennsylvania-case/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/biden-transition-updates/2020/11/22/937729179/pennsylvania-gop-sen-toomey-says-trump-should-accept-election-loss>

And an excerpt from a [CBS interview](#) this morning with Gen. McMaster

MARGARET BRENNAN: ... President Trump has no viable legal pathway to litigate his way to 270 electoral votes. But he continues to raise doubts about the election and to sow doubt among the American public. How corrosive is that to our national security?

MCMASTER: Well, it's- it's very corrosive, Margaret, and what- what concerns me is that the president's kind of playing into the hands of our adversaries. You know, what- what I write about in "Battlegrounds" is how Russia really doesn't care who wins our elections as long as a large number of Americans doubt the legitimacy of the result. And I think what all of us need to do at this point is to demand better from our political leaders, in this case, especially the president, that they don't play into our adversaries' hands and- and divide us further and reduce our confidence in our democratic principles and institutions and processes.

(This is me again) Do you really think we need to wait for court decisions on all the "allegations" from Trump and Rudy Giuliani et al before we can say that whatever abuses we may end up finding, the chance that they will reverse the election outcome is for any practical purpose invisible to the naked eye, and not remotely close to grounds for refusing to acknowledge that Biden won?

Sincerely
Arnold Isaacs

11/22/2020 4:01 PM (Kipke to Isaacs)

I'm not privy to any evidence that they may or may not have. However, I'm confident all of this will be behind us soon and I look forward to that. Enjoy the rest of your weekend!
Nic

11/22/2020 4:25 PM (Isaacs to Kipke and Simonaire)

Thanks, and a pleasant close to the weekend to you too.

11/23/2020 11:44 AM (Isaacs to Kipke and Simonaire)

Dear Delegate Kipke and Senator Simonaire -- I recognize and to an extent regret that I may well be crossing the line into badgering. But this is too important an issue for me to remain silent.

The fair summary of your responses so far is that you refuse to state that Biden won the election and decline to say what facts or reasoning lead you to maintain that position. I have no way to know whether you sincerely believe the outcome is in doubt or if you are just unwilling to contradict President Trump. That is between you and your conscience.

I also don't know what view you may have on the consequences of the president's continuing effort to contest the election, what you think the effects might be if the next president takes office when tens of millions of citizens will have been encouraged to believe he was not legitimately elected.

Mr. Kipke, you say you are "not privy" to the evidence Chris Christie or Senator Toomey or others have for their conclusion about the election. Since your message came just 13 minutes after I sent those references, I am assuming you did not look at them before writing that answer. If you had, you would have seen that their evidence is the same widely reported information that is easily available to you and the public at large, the record of court decisions and public statements by responsible authorities including Republican officials that so far have overwhelmingly refuted the allegations of massive fraud. You can choose not to look at that record but I do not see how you can say you are not privy to it.

Of course every last claim has not been definitively proven or disproven, and theoretically we may yet learn of more cheating than we know about now. Nothing we know right now, though, comes even remotely close to supporting the idea that Trump, not Biden, was the rightful winner. If you disagree with that, I continue to think you have a compelling obligation to tell us what facts -- facts, not evidence-free allegations -- support your view.

Sincerely
Arnold Isaacs

11/23/2020 12:03 PM (Kipke to Isaacs)

Mr. Isaacs, I'm starting to worry a little bit about you. Are you okay? If you want to talk please let me know.

I think it is highly unlikely at this point that Trump's lawyers will change the outcome of the election. It would require evidence of huge and breathtaking levels of voter fraud. That is possible I assume but at this point I've not seen hard evidence, only allegations.

Please be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Nic Kipke

11/23/2020 3:01 PM (Isaacs to Kipke, cc Simonaire)

Dear Mr. Kipke -- I appreciate your concern. I think I am OK mentally and emotionally although I am very upset and worried about the political climate and prospects for this country.

I will be 80 in a couple of months. As a reporter and later as an educator I spent a cumulative total of maybe 12 or 13 of those years working overseas, living for various periods in places including Communist China, the Soviet Union in its last years, Brazil during the military dictatorship, South Vietnam during the war. I was not stationed in but traveled extensively in Pakistan and a fairly long list of other countries grappling with ethnic and regional violence and different variations of conflict between freedom and authoritarian rule. That life experience I believe has given me some meaningful insight, beyond the standard cliches of American political rhetoric, into the meaning of democracy, the nature of the threats against it, and what it means to lose it or never to have had it.

I believe the Trump presidency has represented the most serious danger to American democracy that I have seen in my lifetime, and I will stress that that is entirely separate from my view on any liberal-conservative policy arguments (taxes, trade, immigration etc.) but is a matter of his character and conduct in office. The final act of his administration, refusing to accept the election result, is taking that danger to a new level which I find extremely alarming.

I would not have expected anything different from him, but I am surprised and appalled at the reaction of Republican elected officials, how few have spoken out for principle and truth and how many are supporting his statements and actions, by explicit endorsement or condoning them by silence.

If you think it is "highly unlikely" that Trump's challenges will change the outcome, and if nearly three weeks after the election you have still seen no evidence but only unproven allegations of large-scale fraud, does that not lead you to conclude that Trump should reverse course and concede the election? And if that is your conclusion, do you not have an obligation to declare it?

The longer you and other Republicans delay speaking out, the deeper the lasting wound to millions of people's trust in the election process -- trust that I assume you will agree is the absolute essential core of a working democracy. I can understand that for Republican politicians, breaking with Trump on this issue will carry some political risk. But truth and right and wrong should matter too, and so should some concern for the process of governing in the next four years.

That is why I wrote you and Senator Simonaire. I hope you both will see your way soon to say what needs to be said and help counter mistrust instead of contributing to it by standing by and letting it grow.

So to get back to your question, yes, I am very disturbed, don't really think but can't exclude the possibility that I could use some professional help -- but am quite sure that more honest and principled conduct by members of your party would help a whole lot more.

I very much appreciate your willingness to engage in this conversation. Hope the reasons for it fall away more easily and with less lasting damage than I fear at this moment. Possibly both of us can agree on that much, at least.

Best
Arnold Isaacs

PS: It might interest you to know that I covered the Md. General Assembly as a young reporter for the Sun in the mid-60s and again for another session at the beginning of the 70s -- believe that was before you were born. That's where I learned some early important lessons about politics, government and democracy. I have warm and almost entirely happy memories from that experience, still feel a nostalgic glow when I find myself on State Circle, as happens from time to time.

11/24/2020 5:08 PM (Volke to Isaacs)

Mr. Isaacs, Thank you for your email and reaching out to me. As the County Council does not have any role in certifying the election results (local, state or federal), I have not commented on election-related issues publicly. While Governor Hogan certainly is free to comment on any national matters that he chooses, I do my best to stay focused on issues that are happening here in Anne Arundel County and District 3. I saw yesterday in the news that the GSA cleared the way for the Biden-Harris Transition Team to begin work in earnest and, like many, have watched as the election results around the country have been certified over the last few days/weeks. I plan to continue allowing the highly qualified, professionally trained election staff handle those matters. I will keep working for our District. Thanks again, Nathan

11/25/2020 11:23 AM (Isaacs to Volke)

Dear Mr. Volke -- Eight weeks from now, barring some extremely unlikely new twist, Joe Biden will be inaugurated as president. It seems unavoidable that on that day, tens of millions of Americans, no doubt including a meaningful number of your constituents, will still believe that he was not legally elected and will be an illegitimate president who stole his office -- an argument that is so far completely unsupported by any facts, has not yet convinced any judge in any court of law anywhere in the country, and looks more implausible every day.

Do you think that is good for the country? Do you feel no responsibility to do what you can to mitigate the crisis of trust? As an elected official, do you see no reason to remind the people in your district that the rule of law and the need for truthful speech from officials are essential foundations for our democratic system? Should you not tell them that just because a president or anyone else tweets something, that doesn't make it true?

Do you not have an obligation to say to your voters that you and they may think the wrong guy won the election but that he DID win, and that your party will continue to disagree with his policies but will not promote, explicitly or by assenting silence, the belief that he is not legitimately in office? I assume that's what you expect from people who didn't vote for you. Shouldn't you accept that someone you didn't vote for should expect the same from you?

I have no way to know whether you actually have any doubt that Biden won the election or if you are just unwilling to contradict the president and his associates. That's between you and your conscience. (I will note that to my knowledge nowhere in the country has the stolen-election claim received any verification from any of "the highly qualified, professionally trained election staff" you say you defer to.) And maybe you really feel this issue isn't your business and you have no reason to speak out on it.

I guess that's between you and your conscience too, but I think it's a profoundly wrong position to take. Fueling an unproven and beyond reasonable doubt false belief that the election was stolen is deeply dangerous for the institutions, practices and traditions of American democracy. You and all elected officials have a profoundly important obligation to speak out and keep speaking against that lie. I hope you will do so soon.

Thank you for answering my email, and I wish you and your family a good and safe Thanksgiving. You and I may have important disagreements on other things but I suppose we will agree on the hope that by next Thanksgiving we will have better conditions for celebrating it in more traditional fashion. Maybe we will have a better political climate for truth-telling and the rule of law to be thankful for, too. I hope so.

Sincerely
Arnold Isaacs

11/30/2020 9:27 AM (Volke to Isaacs)

Mr. Isaacs, Thank you again for your response. I hope you and your family had a very happy Thanksgiving holiday. As you know, we have elections and, once the results are certified and all lawsuits are ended, we have a winner. This has happened in our country for hundreds of years. The same will happen with this election. To the extent that people choose not to accept the election results, or harbor feelings that someone should not be the President, I do not see how my statement, as the County Councilman for District 3 in Anne Arundel County, will do anything to change that. But that issue - people not accepting the election results and trying to delegitimize the election of a President - is not something new. I would point to the last four years and the opinions/positions expressed by so many people about President Trump. That playbook has now been written and we have already seen that situation unfold. I am hopeful that, as I did four years ago (you can go check my Facebook page - the post is from 2016), when the new President is sworn-in my constituents will join me and wish him and the country the best as we move forward.
Nathan

11/30/2020 11:07 AM (Isaacs to Volke)

Dear Mr. Volke -- Not something new?

A defeated presidential candidate, who is also the sitting president, repeatedly and loudly proclaiming that the election was corrupt and the result is invalid? Using the most prominent platform in the country to tell 300 million people to believe things that are provably completely untrue? Continuing to broadcast falsehoods that have been ruled false in every court where they have been presented? Declaring that instead of his having to prove his accusations, as he has totally failed to do so far, his opponent has to prove he DIDN'T get illegal votes -- in other words, guilty until proven innocent? (Somehow I doubt he will take that position in any legal proceeding he may face after leaving office.)

Those are not new? Can you cite any precedents that come remotely close to any of them?

Do you really think the investigation of Russian intervention last time around is in any way comparable? I don't remember Hillary Clinton refusing to concede, or Barack Obama declining to meet with Trump or blocking the transition procedure for weeks, or for that matter any prominent Democrats suggesting after the election that Trump should not be allowed to take office.

Mr. Volke, the they-did-it-to-us argument falsifies history. It does not justify the president's false charges OR the silence of Republicans who should be speaking out for the truth and respect for the voters' choice. You say your statement would not change the situation. If not you, who should speak to the people who elected you to your office? Whom would they trust more? Do you really see no harm in letting your voters go on thinking the American election process is illegitimate and the next president will be in

office illegally? Do you really feel no responsibility to explain the facts and defend the tradition that every American presidential candidate has followed throughout our history until now?

Not speaking out is wrong and dangerous. I hope you and other elected Republicans in Maryland and the rest of the country will recognize that and speak soon.

Regards, Arnold Isaacs

12/9/2020 1:45 PM (Isaacs to Kipke and Simonaire)

Dear Delegate Kipke and Senator Simonaire -- I wonder if you are now willing to answer questions on issues I asked about in earlier emails a few weeks ago.

-- Do you really believe, after the recounts and legal proceedings we have watched in the past month, that we do not know who won the presidential election?

-- Do you really believe our political system can stay healthy if many of your constituents and millions of other people believe, against the evidence, that the American election system did not work, that the president who will (presumably) take office next month will be there illegally and that they can legitimately consider his acts are invalid?

-- Do you really believe it is consistent with the rule of law and fundamental democratic principles for the president and his advocates to pressure Republican state legislators -- your exact counterparts -- to disregard the certified popular vote in their states and send electors to the Electoral College who were not chosen by the majority of voters?

-- Do you really believe it is justifiable for the president's supporters to ask state courts and the U.S. Supreme Court to throw out all the votes cast by some 20 million voters in contested states in order to change the outcome of the election?

-- Do you really believe that as elected officials, you have no reason or obligation to tell the people you represent what you really believe about this election?

I hope you will not wait longer to tell us.

Sincerely
Arnold R. Isaacs
Pasadena

12/9/2020 1:55 PM (Same message as above, Isaacs to Volke)

12/9/2020 2:02 PM (Kipke to Isaacs)

Mr. Isaacs, There's a legal process for a contested election and that seems to be working. I'll support whatever is the outcome. Be well! Nic

12/9/2020 2:09 PM (Simonaire to Isaacs)

Well said Delegate Kipke.

12/9/2020 3:02 PM (Isaacs to Nic Kipke)

Does that mean you believe we don't know who won?

12/9/2020 3:03 PM (Isaacs to Simonaire)

Does that mean you truly think we don't know who won the election?

12/9/2020 3:11 PM (Kipke to Isaacs)

Could there have been election fraud? Sure. You and I don't know if it happened. There's plenty of claims and that'll all get sorted out. There's also a forensic audit going on that might answer that question.

I'm not paying as close attention to all of this as you. I'm content to wait for this all to be sorted out. In the mean time, I'm busy helping people with unemployment issues, counseling businesses who are on life support, and supporting people and families with Covid. Be well!

Sincerely, Nic

12/9/2020 3:30 PM (Isaacs to Kipke)

I appreciate your replying to my messages, but see you are unwilling to answer my questions. You don't think these events are urgent enough to warrant your "close attention"?

12/10/2020 8:47 AM (Kipke to Isaacs)

Arnold, I'm not following it closely and do not think I have to. It's stressful and I am up to my ears with other things that I can do something about. You are the only person asking me about this.

Sincerely, Delegate Nic Kipke

12/10/2020 10:30 AM (Isaacs to Kipke, cc Simonaire)

If you as an elected official don't think the current assault on Americans' belief in the election process is important enough for you to pay attention to it, I find that extremely chilling.

12/10/2020 10:39 AM (Kipke to Isaacs)

Thanks Arnold for your feedback. You've mis-characterized my beliefs. As I've said all along, I think it's important that any allegations be investigated and when that's over I'll support the outcome.

I find it chilling that so many liberal Americans are so eager to dismiss allegations and don't want them looked into. If the shoe were on the other foot I suspect you wouldn't feel the same way.

Sincerely, Nic

12/10/2020 10:55 AM (Simonaire to Isaacs)

Arnold, I understand your passion, but as I said initially that there has been enough question about the integrity of the results, the claims must be investigated to help restore faith in the system, fix fraudulent actions or a combination of both.

We need to let the prescribed process play out and go from there or there will be doubt going forward which is not good for our democracy.

Bryan

12/10/2020 11:43 AM (Isaacs to Kipke, cc Simonaire)

Mr. Kipke, I am not dismissing allegations and have said nothing suggesting that I didn't or don't want them looked into. What I have pointed out is that more than a month after the election, no investigation has found anything remotely close to the fraud that has been

alleged, and that none of those allegations has been found valid in any of the dozens of court proceedings that have been decided so far.

I have no objection, and expressed none, to any further investigation. Rather I have asked you as my elected representative to tell your constituents what you believe about the outcome of the election and whether or not you justify moves to reject the certified outcomes and throw out a combined 20 million votes in the states they are challenging. You declined to answer and said you were not following those issues closely. That is not misrepresenting your views; that's exactly what you said.

I was a reporter for many years. I believe in looking facts in the face whether they help or hurt policies or politicians I support. And I strongly believe that my elected representatives should do the same. I am not a mind-reader so can't state this as certain knowledge, but speaking of the shoe hypothetically on the other foot, if Trump had come out on top and the Democrats were alleging a rigged election, I have a hard time believing you would be as silent as you are now. You may or may not believe me on this, but if I were wearing that shoe I would look at the Democrats' charges with exactly the same critical eye that I have put on Trump's, and if their record looked anywhere nearly as unconvincing at this point as his does, I would say so to whatever audience I might have.

Lastly, as much as I disagree with your stance, I very much appreciate your responsiveness in engaging in this dialogue. Thank you for that.

Arnold Isaacs

12/10/2020 12:00 PM (Isaacs to Simonaire, cc Kipke)

Dear Senator Simonaire -- If doubt about the election is not good for our democracy, why will you not answer the questions I have asked and tell us what you believe about the result and about the methods that are being used to challenge it? If elected representatives remain silent on those questions, does that not nourish doubt and worsen the damage it does?

As I said to Delegate Kipke, as strongly as I disagree with your stance, I appreciate and thank you for engaging in this dialogue.

Regards
Arnold Isaacs

12/10/2020 4:19 PM (Simonaire to Isaacs)

Arnold, I don't want to belabor the point, but I believe we should wait until all the facts are presented in the cases, are heard and decided upon before we make any final conclusions.

No one, including you and me, have all the facts that are being portrayed at the federal level, and quite frankly I don't believe putting a public statement out without all the facts will positively help the situation.

Just as in any other court case, people will predict what the outcome will be, but until the judges rule, it is just conjecture.

As I said before, I plan to wait until the process is complete and the all the available facts are known.

I know that may not satisfy you and I can appreciate that but that is what I believe is the best path at this time.

I sincerely also appreciate your passion and interest in government as I wish more people would be involved. I hope you have a wonderful holiday and keep safe.

Senator Bryan Simonaire

12/16/2020 12:00 AM (Volke to Isaacs)

Mr. Isaacs,

Just wanted to follow up with you. As I'm sure you saw, today the Electoral College voted and elected Joe Biden as the next President of the United States of America. To answer your questions: we know the outcome of the election; the electoral process worked as designed; I don't know of any instance where any electors disregarded the certified popular vote of their states with respect to the Electoral College; I don't know of any instance where state courts or the Supreme Court have thrown out 20 million votes; the election has been decided.

Thank you for your emails. Have a Happy Holiday, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Here's to hoping that 2021 is better than 2020.

Nathan

12/16/2020 3:09 PM (Isaacs to Volke)

Dear Mr. Volke -- Thank you for your message. I am glad that you are now willing to declare that Joe Biden won the election. Are you satisfied that he was the true winner,

that the election was not stolen by some vast national conspiracy, not decided by illegal votes or falsified counting or other irregularities? If you conclude, as the evidence overwhelmingly shows, that those are false charges, do you think it is OK if large numbers of your voters continue to believe them, or do you feel any obligation to inform them about the reality?

Your comment on states choosing different electors or courts invalidating votes do not answer the questions I raised. I know that no such things have happened, and didn't suggest that they have. My question to you was whether you believe it is acceptable that the president and his lawyers and other advocates have pressed for those things. Given that they directly assault the fundamental tradition of respecting the voters' choice, do you as an elected official have no responsibility to express your views?

I share your hope that 2021 will be a better year. One thing that will make it better is if members of your party will end their silence and speak and act more strongly in favor of truth, the rule of law, and the bedrock principles of democratic government.

Thank you for your civil, courteous tone and for your gracious holiday wishes. I wish the same for you and your family.

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