

HERMIT HERALD
VOL 1 ISSUE 75
NOVEMBER 6, 2020

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“Can’t anybody here play this game?” Casey Stengel about the hapless 1962 Mets

YOU PERCEIVE WHAT YOU WANT TO PERCEIVE:

That is perhaps the major takeaway from Psychology 101, and in following that very concept the vast majority of the left leaning polling firms totally blew it in a mirror like rerun of 2016. This isn’t your scribe’s take on the issue. This is what is in column after column in today’s media.

Just a couple of examples: Quinnipiac had Biden by 5 in Florida, but Trump won by 3. They had Biden by 4 in Ohio, but Trump won by 8. National polling consensus had Biden winning the election by 10 points. In fact, he is currently winning by just over 2. Just before

election day the ABC- Washington Post poll gave Biden a 17 point edge in Wisconsin. As of 11/4 Trump was losing by 0.6 points.

Conservative columnist, Michael Goodwin, says (and notice he identifies himself as such, so you know where he is coming from - unlike the majority of pollsters) "One sneaky suspicion is that biased news organizations, including the NY Times, use their polls to reinforce their agenda..." And, further, "Some on the right see polls as a form of voter suppression. The claim is that making Trump look like a sure loser is aimed at discouraging supporters from voting."

So, who, if anyone, did get it right? Wow! - none other than the much maligned, Robert Cahaly, head of the non partisan Trafalgar Group - much maligned because he was dismissed as an unqualified pollster in correctly predicting the outcome in 2016 and here he is, in 2020, virtually the only one who, "knows how to play the game." Asked why all the other polls could possibly be so wrong, his response is, "Bias makes people stupid." And,

“If you don’t acknowledge your own biases, then you will be stupid over and over again.” Why? Because people perceive what they want to perceive.

Cahaly further points out that Democrats tend to be much more willing to express their strong views along with their criticism of anyone on the red side of the aisle.

In an intemperate diatribe, Jake Tapper of CNN made his views known about Trump supporters on 11/4 as he declared that America had taken a big hit on the global stage. “Presented with the opportunity for a wholesale rejection of a highly divisive, race baiting, xenophobic, media hating, anti science, lying juvenile incumbent, a sizeable swath of America’s voters decided to take a pass and pull the lever for Trump, and that speaks volumes for who we are as a nation.” Gosh, Jake, the only descriptive term you left out was failing to describe Trump supporters as, “deplorables.”

How do the Reds respond to that? First of all, most of Tapper’s descriptive phrases are

without foundation, except for media hating, an appellation Trump would be delighted to accept. Republicans would point out that one only has to look at how the press has treated him from day one, up to and including the biased election polling. Secondly, no question that some of Trump's statements can cause even his most ardent supporters to cringe, but 67 million Americans are NOT voting for the person Tapper so venomously describes, they are voting for a conservative direction for the country that is the antithesis of where the Blues want to take America.

WHERE TO NOW?

It's mid morning Thursday, November 6th and the latest postings reflect Biden ahead in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania. Needing only one state to take the Electoral College, it is a certainty that America will inaugurate Joe Biden as president in January. From what is being reported in the papers, appeals through the courts are not apt to gain much traction, even though 36% of the population believes votes will not be tabulated correctly. One recent example cited (not this

election) was dispute over a candidate with a 20,000 vote lead. A very expensive recount reversed 131 votes. Would the courts throw out ballots properly post marked but received after the election? Doubtful. Here, as advocated in an earlier HH issue, these rules really need to be changed in the future. Citizens of every state need to be required to have their ballots received by closing hour on election day. If you're worried about mail times, mail your ballot ten days or two weeks in advance. That's the voters' responsibility. Anything received after election day gets rejected.

Anticipating a Biden win, Wall St. has received the prospect in a favorable manner, not so much in celebration of a president-elect Biden, but in a surety that the Senate will remain Republican. There have been numerous articles reinforcing this assumption. I simply don't agree with them. There still is a good chance the Republicans can retain control, but it is by no means assured. Here's the math: The Senate currently stands at 48 -48. In North Carolina, Republican Senator Thom Tillis holds a narrow lead over the challenger and, in

Alaska, Republican Senator Dan Sullivan is way ahead of his rival, but only about one half the votes have been counted. If these leads hold then its Reds 50 and Blues 48. 51 needed for control.

It all comes down to Georgia where two Senate races have yet to be decided and will not be until a run off election January 5th. Senate Republican, David Perdue is barely ahead of Democrat, Jon Ossoff 49.98% to 47.71%. There was a third candidate, Shane Hazel, on the Libertarian ticket who took 2.31% of the vote. Under Georgia law, had Perdue received 50% of the vote, he would have won. By missing out on that miniscule .02% of the vote,(potentially the most costly .02% in political history) forecasting control of the Senate becomes problematic at best. This would be a good example of where a recount, if permitted, should be requested. It may be assumed that those who voted for Ms. Shane will vote for Mr. Ossoff. Who wants to call this race?

Then we have the other Georgia Senate race between Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler and Raphael Warnock, the highly popular pastor of

Ebenezer Baptist Church. In a crowded primary, Rev. Warnock garnered 32.7% of the vote whereas Senator Loeffler received only 26%. In so many words, it's not unlikely that Georgia will wind up with two Democratic Senators – score becomes 50 -50. You probably know the rest of the scenario – Vice President Harris has the tie breaking vote and the Senate is effectively in Democratic Party hands. I hope our readers share my skepticism of the many reports that claim the Republicans have a lock on Senate control.

Whether you are Red or Blue, if you're a true believer, prepare to open your wallets for the Georgia races. To help you manage your budgets, the Democrats spent \$90 million in their losing effort against Senator McConnell and \$108 million in the loss to Senator Graham. And, of course, the big one, Bloomberg spent most of \$100 million in Florida, but also in Texas and Ohio in an effort to defeat Trump – all for naught. Oh!, and don't forget his \$1 Billion failed run for the presidency. If memory serves, it was Theodore White who, in writing, "The Making of a president" (1964) cited, what would become

political mantra, that candidates can buy their way into office. So, is this year an anomaly or do we need a new mantra? Since we don't know the answer for sure, better send contributions. Bet these two races raise more than \$200 million- good for the economy.

So what happens to, soon to be former president, Trump? Not to worry - big articles in yesterday's NY Times and today's NY Post. NY Times- "Win or Lose, Trump's Clout will not Fade." And NY Post, "No Matter what, Don's here to stay." Essentially, whether you're Red or Blue you can't deny this guy is the, "Energizer Bunny". He has been indefatigable on the campaign trail and publicity is his life blood. Don't be surprised if we are seeing a repeat of Grover Cleveland, the only president to be elected to non consecutive terms. More importantly, he remains the banner carrier for the party. Between Tucker Carlson, Mark Levine, Sean Hannity and others, plus Trump himself, you can expect the chipping away at the new administration to begin almost immediately.

“President elect Biden” (my term only, and not approved by any authority or news agency) made a very nice statement the other day.

“While proud to be a Democrat, I will be president of all the people.” Sorry “Mr. president elect”, but 67 million people aren’t listening to you.

“ALL THE NEWS THAT’S FIT TO PRINT”-NOT

So while the NY Times initially wouldn’t even touch the Hunter Biden- Biden family politically damaging story about the contents of Hunter Biden’s laptop, under investigation by the FBI since last December, they have time to publish the number one idiotic article of the year: “Presidential Choice by First Name” Say wha? Seems some genius at the Times thought it would fit with “all the news that’s fit to print” if they published a Times survey in conjunction with Siena College. Based on first names, among 17,000 voters, what are the ten most common male and female names related to their voting preferences? And, the envelope please: In first place for the men – yes it’s you, Richard, 64% of you Richards are voting for Trump. And, for the Karen’s of the world, 60%

of you are voting for Biden- what garbage!! I want to see the same poll for those born in the first 15 days of the month and those who were born in the last 15.

AND FROM ONE OF OUR READERS

This, just in. Recognizing the frustration in awaiting final word on the election, which is the agreed upon trigger for new violence, a long time reader suggests, "This is dragging on too long. I feel sorry for the looters. They should at least go out and practice tonight- maybe just grab a couple of TVs to maintain their skills."

AND FINALLY

If the NY Times can be goofy, I guess I'm entitled as well, in that I have founded a third party, the Indempublican Party. My dog is totally behind me. Anyone wanting in on the ground floor, let me know and you'll receive one year of the HH for free, substantially below the current price of zero.

Your faithful scribe, PB

As I told an old friend the other day, I'm reporting on what I read, hear and see, so don't shoot the messenger, but Reds and Blues, examine your own perceptions, or as Mr Cahaly would say, your, "biases". Is there the slightest chance you might compromise or alter your views? Unfortunately, I suspect not.