

# They Can't Win Unless the President Loses

You know things are bad when the supposedly "loyal opposition" has morphed into the "resistance" and has become way too heavily invested in the president's failure.

Democrats say no matter what they suspect, they really and truly hope there was no collusion between the President of the United States and the Russians because that would be a terrible thing for our country.

Translation: We Democrats, especially we progressive Democrats, hope and pray that there actually was collusion because then we can finally get rid of this embarrassment who should never have been elected in the first place.

Democrats say they hope President Trump won't fire special counsel Robert Mueller because that would create a constitutional crisis.

In English that means they hope and pray that he does fire Mueller because then they can impeach him on grounds of obstruction of justice.

Democrats say the new tax law will hurt the middle class; that it will, in the words of Nancy Pelosi, bring on Armageddon.

But that's exactly what Ms. Pelosi and her merry band of progressives are hoping, because Armageddon would lead to a blue wave next November that sweeps Democrats into a majority in Congress.

Rush Limbaugh took a lot of flak for saying, "I hope he fails" as President Obama was about to take office. Rush was intentionally provocative because he understood that provocative plays well in the talk radio business. Democrats

are more nuanced – and more dishonest. They won't say they hope Donald Trump fails, but they're hoping he fails.

Politics, they figure, is a zero sum game. They can't win unless President Trump loses.

There was a time when the economy would save a president, no matter what. James Carville put it elegantly when he said, "It's the economy, stupid." But it may not be that simple in the age of Trump.

Since he became president, the economy has been booming. Consumer confidence has hit a 17-year high and unemployment has hit a 17-year low. Despite that, more Americans disapprove of the job he's doing than approve.

That may be because it's not just the economy, stupid anymore. Now it's also about values. And the American people – his loyal base, of course, excluded – don't especially like this president's values. They don't like that he lives in a "dark and deeply personal pool of feuds and fulminations," as Dan Henninger put it in his Wall Street Journal column.

Karl Rove, the wise GOP political guru, says Republicans should urge Mr. Trump to stay off the campaign trail leading up to the midterm elections; his unpopularity is likely to rub off on candidates he's trying to help. He's right. Donald Trump has the worst ratings in his first year of any president in the modern era. He would be an albatross around the neck of a lot of Republican candidates.

So here's some free advice in the New Year for our president: Stop appealing to your base. You had them at *Hello, I'm the great Donald Trump and I'm here to give the middle finger to everyone you hate*. Yes, they give you the approval you crave; their cheers are your oxygen. But they also enable you to say and do things that turn off most other Americans. The base may love your divisive rhetoric and your needless battles. Most Americans don't.

A new Wall Street Journal/NBC poll finds that 50 percent of voters want Democrats to lead Congress after the midterms; only 39 percent prefer Republicans. And the Democratic lead got bigger since a similar poll in October.

But, November is a long way off. So anything is possible. Maybe President Trump will stop the shenanigans that divide Americans. Maybe he'll stop responding to every slight. Maybe he'll knock off using Twitter to settle scores. Maybe he'll take the high road for a change.

And while we're at it, maybe progressives will stop praying for impeachment long enough to hope that the economy under President Trump actually gets even stronger. Maybe they'll hope that still more people find good jobs and that the new tax law really does help American workers.

Before I go, I have a confession to make. Despite the byline, Bernard Goldberg didn't write this column. I knocked him over the head and hijacked his computer. My name is Pollyanna.

Happy New Year!

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## **Look Out Everybody: Domsday Is Coming!!!**

I'm scared. Really, really scared. And I'm seriously thinking of renouncing my citizenship and leaving the United States of America while I still can.

If you have to ask "Why?" I'm guessing you've been in a coma and don't know how the Republican tax bill will wreck our once great country. Don't take my word for it. Let's go to an

impartial observer – Nancy Pelosi, the minority leader in the House, who says the new tax plan amounts to “Armageddon” and that it’s “the worst bill in the history of Congress.”

Armageddon! The worst bill in American history!! Oh, the humanity!!!

If you want to stay in this wretched country after the Republican Party passes “the worst bill in the history of Congress,” be my guest. But don’t say Nancy didn’t warn you!

Among other things, Ms. Pelosi is concerned about what the new tax bill will do to our huge national debt. This alone qualifies her for a spot on Mt. Rushmore.

The experts say the GOP tax plan would increase the debt by \$1 trillion over the next decade. That’s a lot of money, right? Okay, if you want to nit-pick, it’s not as much as the \$10 trillion increase that we saw during the eight years of the Obama presidency – but Nancy Pelosi and other liberals were outraged about that too.

Contrary to what conservatives are constantly telling you, when Barack Obama was president, liberal Democrats cared very much about the growing deficit and how at some point it could wreck the national economy. It was on their list of major concerns – just below their anxieties over dirty windshield wipers, dog doo, and crab grass.

But if you’re a cynic and don’t want to believe an honest woman like Nancy Pelosi, consider what a journalist has to say – because journalists have no biases and have no beef either with Republicans in general or conservatives in particular.

So say hello to Kurt Eichenwald, a journalist and author who from time to time offers up his invaluable opinions to friendly audiences on MSNBC, which is a cable news network that is right down the middle when it comes to political commentary. Here’s what Mr. Eichenwald tweeted when it became

clear the tax bill likely would become law:

“America died tonight. ... Millenials: move away if you can. USA is over. We killed it.”

Yes, we killed America. And by “we” I mean “you,” you irresponsible Republicans. So now, we’re all doomed. And I’m starting to hyperventilate.

Okay, let’s get serious. These are the same people who say President Trump is crazy. As we used to say in third grade: “It takes one to know one.”

It’s hard to take these people seriously now that they’ve suddenly become deficit hawks. Now that it’s politically convenient, we’re supposed to believe that doomsday is on the way because we’re adding *one* trillion dollars to the debt – over 10 years – if it’s even that much?

I might accept that Pelosi and the others who stroll the Left bank really do care about deficits – if (and this is a great big giant “if”) they weren’t busy yawning – that is, when they weren’t busy spending money they didn’t have– during the last \$10 trillion.

And they say Donald Trump is unhinged?