

Violent Language, Between You and I

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

It has been reported by reliable people, and my own ears, that Donald Trump says, "Between you and I." Of course this is the unmistakable line between those who care enough about their own language to learn the object of a preposition and those in need of remedial. When the unwashed get to the word "between" while speaking, the first thing their ear tells them is that "Between you and I" is right because it has a tonier sound to it, almost regal they imagine, than "between you and me." Therefore such people as Donald Trump say, "Confidentially, between you and I . . ."

Yet with the one quality Trump has, amazing brashness - "I just bought the sky!" - he has overwhelmed the newspapers and television more than any one we ever have had in this city. Barnum or Mike Todd used guile and chicanery, but Trump understood that this year, you can blind their minds by showing them a diamond. During a celebration of greed he became toastmaster.

So "Between You and I" Trump, who runs crap games and slot machines, became an all-news person. Trump today bought a man a wooden leg! All candidates stand with sides lathered with excitement as they wait for Donald Trump's endorsement!

FULL TEXT

It has been reported by reliable people, and my own ears, that Donald Trump says, "Between you and I." Of course this is the unmistakable line between those who care enough about their own language to learn the object of a preposition and those in need of remedial. When the unwashed get to the word "between" while speaking, the first thing their ear tells them is that "Between you and I" is right because it has a tonier sound to it, almost regal they imagine, than "between you and me." Therefore such people as Donald Trump say, "Confidentially, between you and I . . ."

And the listener, ears flinching, immediately learns quite a bit about Trump.

This also provides Trump with his proper name in this city. From this point on, he shall forever be known as "Between You and I" Trump.

Knowing this, one recoiled, but was hardly suprised to find in the newspapers this morning a full-page advertisement by "Between You and I" Trump in the insolent, cruel words one would expect of him for, of course, lack of knowledge of a language always breeds words of thuggery.

The ad for the first time reveals all the rest of the things that anybody would want to know about Donald Trump.

In his ad, which ran in all four of the city's newspapers, "Between You and I" Trump practically called for the death of the teenagers arrested for the rape and attack on the 28-year-old jogger in Central Park.

As the young woman is not dead and those arrested for her attack do not as yet even have a trial date, much less guilt established, his scream for vengeance could be considered premature by some.

At a time of shocking crime, it seems best to have authorities who in low, cold voices will persist, persist, persist and see that the guilty are surely and as swiftly as possible given proper punishment. Outside the courthouse, beware always of the loudmouth taking advantage of the situation and appealing to a crowd's meanest nature.

And here yesterday is what "Between You and I" Trump had in his ad in every paper in this city:

"Mayor Koch has stated that hate and rancor should be removed from our hearts. I do not think so. I want to hate these muggers and murderers. They should be forced to suffer and, when they kill, they should be executed for their crimes . . . Yes, Mayor Koch, I want to hate these murderers and I always will. I am not looking to psychoanalyze them or understand them, I am looking to punish them . . . I no longer want to understand their anger. I want them to understand our anger. I want them to be afraid."

Such violent language sounds as if it were coming from someone who walks around with bodyguards.

Let us now turn to how the legitimate tough guys speak of violence. We had in Metropolitan Hospital the other night, at the bedside of the 28-year-old victim of the attack, the following:

Her badly wounded mother, father and two brothers. Officer Steven McDonald, paralyzed forever by a bullet. McDonald was shot by a 15-year-old at a spot in Central Park only a hundred yards away from where the young woman was attacked. Also present was Father Mychal Judge, a priest who spends all his time with those dying with AIDS. All stood around the young woman's bed and held hands and prayed.

The family of the young woman did not stop expressing their gratitude for all those who pray for their daughter.

"Forgiveness," Steven McDonald said in a wheelchair he can never leave.

"We must forgive or we cannot be," Father Mychal Judge said.

The language of those who know.

The curious thing about "Between You and I" Trump is not that he destroyed himself yesterday, for all demagogues ultimately do that, but why he became so immensely popular with the one group of people who are supposed to be the searchlights and loudspeakers that alert the public to the realities of such a person. That would be those who work in the news business. Even the most unhostile of eyes cannot say that his buildings are not ugly. Yet all news stories say "imaginative" when common sense shouts "arrogant." Always, the television and newspapers talk of his financial brilliance, when anybody in the street knows that most of "Between You and I" Trump's profits come from crap games and slot machines in Atlantic City, the bulk of that, the slot machines, coming from old people who go down there with their Social Security checks.

It also is an undeniable fact of life that gambling keeps bad company.

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It would be comforting if "Between You and I" Trump was doing it the old way, by having half the reporters on a payroll someplace. But the news business today is so utterly dishonest that the people are below taking bribes. Instead, Trump buys them with a smile, a phone call or a display of wealth that so excites these poor fools that they cannot wait to herald his brilliance.

"He let me see his yacht!"

And so "Between You and I" Trump, who runs crap games and slot machines, became an all-news person. Trump today bought a man a wooden leg! All candidates stand with sides lathered with excitement as they wait for Donald Trump's endorsement!

His thinking on anything was accepted. One paper - I think it was the Times, but I have all these piles of clips around me and to tell you the truth I cannot read them - ran four separate stories on Donald Trump in one day.

Finally yesterday, in order to cash in on a young woman in a coma, to make an unedited statement, he ran his ad and showed himself for all to see what he was.

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