

# President needs to listen

**D**onald Trump is making a sideshow out of the presidency. While his cabinet and vice president try manfully to form some semblance of a government, he continues in campaign mode with his outrageous rhetoric and childish tweets.

What are our allies — and our enemies — to think when Trump rips off another of his ridiculous ideas such as when he says that the U.S. should win the war with ISIS and then “keep the oil” because “to the victor go the spoils?” At the same time, Trump’s secretary of defense was trying to reassure the Iraqis, who are



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doing most of the fighting, that “nobody is going to seize your oil.”

It is a similar story with Mexico. While the Homeland Security secretary and the secretary of state are in Mexico telling them that “there will be no use of military forces in immigration,” and, “there will be no mass deportations,” Trump is assuring his political base the deportations will be a “military operation” and they are going to get the bad guys “the hell out of this country.” This is no way to carry on foreign affairs — it’s crazy.

And why on earth has Trump declared war on the news media, especially CNN and the New York Times and — can you believe this? — the FBI and the CIA? It’s completely irrational.

Trump needs these people on his side if he is to be successful.

Unless Trump gets his act together soon — and that is what it is, an act — he runs a high risk of having a failed presidency. The game he is playing seems to be to tell us that everything is very bad and he is the only one who can fix it. But things aren’t really all that bad, and when his political base comes to realize that, he is going to be in a lot of trouble. For example, Trump calls for the repeal and replacement of Obamacare, but neither he nor any of the Republican leaders can figure out how to accomplish that without doing life and death harm to millions of people. Meanwhile, people are realizing Obamacare is not that bad. Sure, it needs some fixing, and it needs to be made uniform across the country, but that is what Trump and the Republican leaders should be working on.

Also, there is a good chance that all of the investigations into Trump’s connections with Russia will lead to a scandal to rival Watergate. What an irony it would be if while Trump and the Republicans were pillorying Hillary Clinton over having her own email server, Trump’s surrogates were conspiring with Russian agents to influence the election and get Trump elected. If any of this turns out to be true, it would be grounds for impeachment.

Furthermore, for a man whose ego is so monumental that he must retaliate for any personal affront to be in control of our nuclear arsenal is enough to keep

every American awake at night — not to mention the rest of the world.

There is no denying that Trump won the vote in the Electoral College and that a lot of what he is trying to do as president is what he promised as a candidate. But Trump’s election was a malfunction of the antiquated electoral system. In a democracy, the candidate who gets the most votes is supposed to win. Trump got almost three million votes fewer than Hillary Clinton. He has no mandate from the American people to build a wall on the Mexican border or to deport millions of illegal immigrants. He has no directive to cozy up to Russia and abandon our European allies. He has no majority of voters telling him to deny admission to the country of people from Muslim countries. And for Trump to seize Iraq’s oil would be a war crime worthy of Saddam Hussein. Polls show that a majority of citizens do not want him to do any of these immoral and un-American things.

For Trump to continue with his bizarre behavior could easily bring about a failed presidency and plunge the country into economic and political chaos.

No reasonable American wants a failed presidency. Here’s hoping that Trump starts listening to experienced advisers and not to those who want to “deconstruct” America.

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