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Take a stand against Trump

Although “the Republican leadership largely looked the other way” after Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake’s declaration of conscience about President Donald Trump, his speech throws down the gauntlet for others to consider their stand.

Maine Sen. Margaret Chase Smith’s “Declaration of Conscience” was more than “just a piece of stirring rhetoric.” ([Bangor Daily News, Oct. 31](#)). She eventually became an icon for all who prize decency in government. It took years for others to arrive at her judgment about Wisconsin Sen. Joseph McCarthy. History has not been kind to McCarthy. An English newspaper wrote, “America was the cleaner by his fall.”

We remain in a situation where “everybody feels the evil, but no one has courage or energy enough to seek the cure.” (Alexis de Tocqueville).

The rising chorus of women empowered to speak out publicly to unmask male predators and abusers in elective office and the media gives hope that our collective moral edge is being sharpened.

Despite the dangerous behavior of Trump, there has yet been no call to remove him. The faux appearance of unity and support for Trump displayed by House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell cannot conceal the fact that their moral position is precisely identical: that is, it doesn’t exist. It is two dogs fighting for the same bone of a once grand old party.

Republicans of strong conscience may yet “see the cure.”

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