

Another Answer

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Your editorial ("A Curious Mutiny In The Ranks," Press & Dakotan, Oct. 11) asks: "Why, after all this time and the myriad controversies stirred up during Trump's White House bid, did this incident push these lawmakers over the edge? One good guess would be that they see the writing on the wall." Another answer might be: to save their own skin and seat in office.

Senator John Thune's principled behavior a la carte is on vivid display regarding l'affaire Trump. After he and Gov. Dennis Daugaard asked that their presidential candidate step down, he switched again and now says he will vote for Trump. Thune is now aligned with Sen. Mike Rounds and Rep. Kristi Noem and other members of the party once known for upholding family values who denounce Trump's behavior but continue to support such a rude and immoral candidate for president.

Speaker Paul Ryan declared, "I am sickened by what I heard today" but announced that although he will not defend nor campaign for Trump, but that he still endorses him for president.

Vice-presidential nominee Mike Pence said, "As a husband and father ... I do not condone his remarks and cannot defend them" but later says Trump shows that he "embodies the spirit of America" in the debate after he apologized again for claiming that his fame allowed him a pass to grope women.

This Republican behavior recalls the display of principled behavior exhibited by a priest in the 16th century who changed his religious affiliation four times — Catholic to Protestant — during the turbulent reigns of Henry VIII to Queen Elizabeth I. When a parishioner asked him, "What kind of principle is that?", the priest responded: "My principle is to stay alive."

The vacillating Republicans' principle is save their own skin and seat.

It will be the voters in South Dakota and the nation acting on their own principles who will decide on Nov. 8 who will still be alive in Congress and the White House next year.