

YORK COUNTY COAST STAR



LETTER TO EDITOR

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Time for Maine's reps to 'administer a stiff kick'

Donna Buttarazi's "Memorable and Moving" report ([YCCS, Aug.4](#)) paints a dynamic picture of a historical moment in our country when differing delegates at the Democratic National convention in Philadelphia could unite behind the first female presidential nominee. Based on the experiences of Maine's delegates, Rep. Chris Babbidge, House District 9 candidate Diane Denk and former senator John Hinck, the news story did indeed convey "an electric feel of hope and optimism." Rep. Babbidge's guest column confirms that the convention experience once again did "champion empathy, diversity and civil discourse." (["A Witness to history at Democratic convention in Philadelphia", Aug. 4](#)).

It was instructive to read that candidate Denk "was careful with her words about the Republican nominee", but she added: "When I see our own Republican senator (Susan Collins) unable to get behind him, I think that says a lot."

Both Sen. Susan Collins and Rep. Bruce Poliquin have distanced themselves from Donald Trump and continue to make a distinction between their candidate's derisive inflammatory rhetoric and the Republican party.

This year's Republican nominee is a bizarre caricature of the rich legacy of Abraham Lincoln's once proud party. Lincoln denounced the anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic rage of his time in a letter to a friend: "Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation, we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.' We now practically read it 'all men are created equal, except negroes'. When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics.' When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty -- to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be

taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy." (Springfield, Illinois, August 24, 1855 to Joshua Speed)

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: "Even a dog knows the difference between being stumbled over and being kicked." Collins and Poliquin continue to stumble over their nominee. It is time for Maine's representatives to find the courage to administer a stiff kick to repudiate this racist, sexist, demagogue who has hijacked their party.

When the scab of this self-inflicted wound eventually heals, those elected officials who stood by silently will be remembered by the people of Maine.

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