

Yet Another Example Of The Intolerant Left

With all the uproar over the firing of National Public Radio's (NPR) Juan Williams and the many articles and blogs denouncing that action, one might think there is nothing left to be said. But I believe there is an important point to be made beyond, "Williams did not deserve to be given the axe," "NPR is full of leftist ideologues," and "The sooner the taxpayers stop funding 'the (pornographic) arts' and (all-liberal-all-the-time) public broadcasting, the better." It is worth considering *why* NPR did not anticipate the reaction caused by its termination of Williams.

NPR knew full well that many Fox viewers do not care for Williams' spin on the issues, and it expected that many more people would be pleased than would be angered by his firing. They expected everyone on the left to be pleased because they hate Fox News and do not believe that any liberal should ever descend so low as to appear on the "fair and balanced" network. And they expected the Fox viewers to be pleased because, after all, Williams is a liberal. The NPR executives assume that all Fox viewers are knuckle-dragging Neanderthals and "ditto heads" who have no interest in listening to the views of anyone other than a few hosts on one television network and conservative talk radio. And they further assume that Fox viewers are as stubborn, rigid, and ideological as they are. The NPR crowd has no tolerance for dissenting opinion, and they believe that all conservatives share a similar intolerance. They fired Williams and quite naturally had no reason to expect a controversy. In their minds, "Liberals hate Fox News, and Fox viewers hate liberals, so everybody should be happy with the move." (Certainly Williams would not have been let go if NPR thought the reaction would include Senator James DeMint promising to introduce legislation to eliminate its federal funding.)

So, fire Williams they did, and they were stunned to learn that Fox-viewing conservatives do not hate Juan Williams because he is a liberal. They largely disagree with him on a significant number of issues, but they have no problem listening to what he has to say. His arguments might occasionally persuade them to change their minds about an issue, although typically they probably do not. But Williams is entitled to his opinions; he is intelligent and well-informed; and he seems to be a reasonable and decent human being. Viewers enjoy hearing from Williams and then hearing from syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer. They may then choose to agree with either of them—or neither of them. But when they are in disagreement it would not occur to Fox viewers to wish that Williams and his family would contract AIDS (as NPR's Nina Totenberg said of Senator Jesse Helms) or to "laugh loudly like a maniac and watch his eyes bug out" if Williams had a heart attack (as Sarah Spitz, an NPR affiliate employee, said she would do if Rush Limbaugh were so stricken).

The goose-steppers at NPR, however, cannot understand the concept of an open exchange of ideas or comprehend listening to—much less evaluating—more than one side of the issue. (Their view of an "open discussion" is like Obama's definition of bipartisanship: the Republicans cave in.) They believe—they *know*—that theirs is the correct viewpoint on *every* issue, and no one is allowed to stray from the reservation. Williams paid the price for straying farther than they could allow. The official leftist handbook no doubt

declares: “Islam is a religion of peace; we are not at war with Islam; and the terrorists are simply misguided souls whose violence can be understood in the context of living a life of poverty forced upon them by the imperialistic United States and the Jews.” Williams dared to make a statement in conflict with the handbook, so he had to go.

The taxpayer-supported thugs at the NPR cannot tolerate dissent in the ranks, even if it is barely measurable dissent by a member of its own liberal community. There is nothing new there. The left always uses people and discards them when they are no longer needed. As an example, the liberal media propped up Senator Bob Packwood for a while—because he was a liberal Republican and the Democrats often needed his vote. But the media always had information it could use to discredit Packwood; it simply held it back because he was useful. Once the Democrats won enough Senate seats to no longer need Packwood, the information was leaked and his career was over.

Senator John McCain got the same treatment. As long as McCain voted as a “Democrat-lite” the media tolerated him—and even pretended to like and respect him. In 2008 the media certainly knew that McCain would be the weakest GOP candidate, so it did its best to help him win the nomination. Of course, after the nominating convention was over the liberal media went after McCain with guns blazing. He made the foolish mistake of believing the media would give him a fair shake. (That naiveté alone was probably reason enough not to vote for McCain in the primaries.)

The media now regularly gives McCain’s daughter Meghan a chance to spout off to a large audience, but that is only because she criticizes conservatives and the Tea Party—and generally discredits the Republican “brand” with her moronic statements. The minute “useful idiot” Meghan McCain stops being useful, the media will discard her as it has done to countless others. (One can imagine Ms. McCain telling her valley girl friends that, à la Sally Field, “Christiane Amanpour really likes me!”) For the time being Amanpour and ABC certainly know what they are doing and they will continue to do it—regardless of the horrific torture that Pulitzer Prize-winner George Will is forced to endure.

NPR’s error was in believing that everyone is like them, but they are not. Unlike NPR, Fox viewers do not think it is right to fire someone because of his opinions. Fox viewers do not believe someone should be thrown under the bus for not being politically correct. Most Fox viewers do, however, likely agree that NPR executive Vivian Schiller should be fired for telling an audience that Williams’ thoughts about Muslims should be kept between him and “his psychiatrist or his publicist” rather than aired on Fox News.

The left is now going after Mara Liasson, another NPR analyst who also appears on Fox News. NPR would be making the same mistake if it terminated Liasson’s contract. Like Williams, she is a decent and honorable person who brings a thought-provoking balance to discussions on Fox News. And like Williams, Liasson does not deserve to be hit on the head with the left’s ideological hammer.

Of course, if NPR can do something about the Fox appearances of the mean-spirited and vulgar Democrat Party strategist Bob Beckel—well, that’s a different story altogether...

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