

Twitter Thread by Palmer Report

Palmer Report

@PalmerReport



1) If you want a better understanding of how to fight and win on the left, look no further than Rep. Bill Pascrell. He knows Speaker Pelosi can't just magically refuse to seat 126 House Republicans and pull it off – but that's the entire point. This is all about leverage.

2) There are no magic wand solutions in politics. There just aren't. Pascrell is a fearless flame thrower, but he understands that. He's calling for Pelosi to refuse to seat these Republicans, because it gets the discussion going about what should be done to these Republicans.

3) By calling for an extreme and impossible action (the 14th Amendment isn't a magic wand the Speaker can just wave), Pascrell is laying the groundwork to give Pelosi cover to be able to take some kind of more realistic action against the 126 House Republicans.

4) By the time Pelosi ends up taking whatever realistic action she was planning to take against them, it ends up looking reasonable in the eyes of voters in the middle, in comparison to the more extreme (and again, impossible) course of action that Pascrell put on the table.

5) So the Democratic Party will get a savvy win out of this. They'll ding the 126 House Republicans in some way, and it'll resonate with voters in the middle. But most liberal activists will end up throwing a fit about it, because they didn't get the magic wand solution.

6) So liberal activists end up in this weird mindset where they think the Democratic Party is weak or ineffective, and it's only because most liberal activists have no idea what winning looks like, or how political strategy works.

7) When Pelosi doesn't magically invoke the 14th Amendment against 126 House Republicans, you won't hear Pascrell bash her for it, because he knows it's not a real thing. It was just a way to get the discussion started. It's what savvy flame throwers like Pascrell do.

8) Same thing with Rep. Maxine Waters. She's a fearless flame thrower. She always calls for more action than what's even possible. But she understands that she's just framing the discussion. She never bashes Pelosi, because she knows what is and isn't possible.

9) The problem isn't with the Democratic Party. The problem is with us. Too many of us simply have no idea what we're watching play out on our own side. We think the impossible magic wand scenario IS the realistic strategy. Then we get discouraged when it doesn't happen.

10) Don't be the clueless football fan who throws a fit because your own team doesn't throw the long pass on every play. You have to learn what a winning strategy looks like, or else you're bashing your own side for no reason, and getting in the way of your own team winning.

11) "But why don't the Democrats just tell us what they're up to?"

Because they can't do battle with the other side effectively, if they have to keep publicly revealing their strategy the entire time, just so we won't mistakenly turn against them.

12) Liberal pundits should be the ones explaining to liberal activists how these strategies actually work, and what can be expected. But liberal pundits get more popular by pandering to you, and they score cheap easy points with you by dishonestly bashing the Democratic Party.

13) So it's really up to you to think through how things work. Can Pelosi really just refuse to seat 126 House Republicans who were just elected? Of course not. Supreme Court would quickly overrule her, and Pelosi would be left looking stupid, overreaching, and powerless.

14) So it should be pretty obvious to you that the 14th Amendment suggestion is just a way of kickstarting the public discussion, and creating public sentiment that SOME kind of (realistic) punishment should happen for these turds.

15) You can really help the Democrats by calling for the 14th Amendment to be invoked. It gives them cover to do other, realistic things. But you have to understand that using the 14th Amendment isn't a real thing. You can't throw a fit at your own leaders when it doesn't happen.

16) When a quarterback fakes a handoff to a running back, it's very effective, especially if the running back plays along emphatically. But imagine if the running back naively thought he would get the handoff, and threw a fit when he didn't. That's most of you, most of the time.

17) There are numerous liberal pundits pandering to you by dishonestly insisting that the quarterback didn't have the guts to hand off the ball to the running back, or that the entire play was a DNC conspiracy against the running back. You have to learn to ignore that bullshit.

18) Stomping your feet and angrily demanding bold but magically simplistic action is just a starting point when it comes to strategy and winning.

Foot stomping and magic wand demands are not a recipe, on their own, for getting anything done. Never, ever works.

19) If you want to be a help to the Democratic Party leadership, you have to figure out how strategy works, what winning looks like, and what's really going on. Otherwise your misguided foot stomping is a hindrance to what they're trying to do for you.