

# Inquiring Minds: Wondering, "Now What?"

Issue #41 November, 2016 "If we don't have an informed electorate, we don't have a democracy." [Jim Leher](#)

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## WISHFUL THINKING ON MY PART SOON CORRECTED

Leslie Stahl's ([easy on DT?](#)) hour-long interview of President-elect Trump on *60 Minutes*' presented a nicer, more personable, and more reasonable man with his very normal-looking-and-sounding family. I, along with millions probably, thought *maybe he's not that bad of a guy after all, now that he's won, has been treated kindly by his opponents as he is being transitioned into the White House, and seems to have a new respect for the complexities of that job.*

Maybe the presidency would change him just like having a child changes parents and most of their theories about raising children. And, to his credit, though a demagogue, he is not a rigid ideologue but more of a pragmatist. For example, he opposes Speaker Paul Ryan's penchant for cutting Medicare. *Maybe, I thought, he will rise to the occasion, follow the example of Washington, Lincoln, and Obama and surround himself with the best advisors the country has to offer, regardless of party affiliation, gender, or race. Maybe we could all come together and have a kumbuya moment after the painful campaign and close election.*

One day after the interview much of this searching for optimism has been hammered by the pres-elect's appointments of [Steve Bannon](#) and Rudi Giuliani to top positions in his administration. Get to know



these guys, for, like Cheney in Bush's ear, they will have Trump's attention. ([NYT article on why Giuliani should not be Secretary of State.](#)) Not that there will not be a softening of stances and rhetoric, but the proof is in the pudding. We will have to wait and see, and respond accordingly.

## ONE EXAMPLE OF DONALD'S NAIVETE' OF HEALTHCARE

As first reported by Lawrence O'Donnell of MSNBC and later corroborated on *60 Minutes*; DT wants to retain the pre-existing conditions and child care coverage until 26 in the current health care system. To do this, O' Donnell reasoned, DT would be forced to uphold mandatory membership of all citizens to make it financially feasible for health care agencies to afford such. Not paying in advance would be like a person getting insurance only when his house is on fire. As in many issues, Trump's own ignorance of the complexities of political issues will be revealed once he starts dealing with specifics and powerful parties involved. From this should come something known as *compromise*.

## BOXER'S BILL TO SCRAP ELECTORAL COLLEGE D.O.A.

"Unlikely to pass," says Malibu Law professor at Pepperdine for the reason stated in the box below.

"The reason for that, beyond the partisan politics, is rather simple – smaller states like the attention they get during the election." ([brief article here](#))

Originally, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison proposed an Electoral College (not named that until 1847) to, as I understand it in a [very complex article in wikipedia](#), 1) give the smaller

states more equal representation; 2) prevent the more populated urban areas sectarian influence over rural America; and 3) have wise men make decisions for the unwise masses.



James Madison

## SO WHAT TO DO NOW AND OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

Hating crowds and confusion, I'm not a protestor, even though I think peaceful protest is not only a right but way of registering discontent.

I question the merit of signing online petitions. [Do they work](#) or just give people the satisfaction of trying to do something?

Having more time than testosterone, I watch PBS ([Gwen Ifill](#), RIP), MSNBC, and read *Time*, *The NY Times*, *The Washington Post*, or other credible sources of information to keep me painfully informed. It's upsetting, for example, to see Trump appointees come from dubious backgrounds and questionable abilities. At times I am tempted to turn off the liberal news and bury myself in novels. However, it is harder for me to seek bliss through ignorance.

Like many of us, I am hoping for the best, and would love to be pleasantly surprised.

Realistically, now more so than ever, we have to keep ourselves informed and vigilant to the needs of all citizens. To paraphrase Jefferson, what will kill democracy is not foes without but ignorance and apathy within. Stay informed, and remember history fluctuates. -J