

Can We Please Stop With This Nazi, Hitler, Name-Calling Stuff?

Adolph Hitler and the Nazis committed some of the most horrific acts known to the human race, systematically murdering millions of Jews—including 1 1/2 million Jewish children and babies—along with other ethnic and social minorities, not to mention sparking a war that killed many millions of others. In light of the depths of their evil, we had better be very careful before we label others Nazis or call our opponents Hitler.

Most recently, Howard Dean labelled Steve Bannon, President-elect Trump's chief of staff, a Nazi, explaining, "It's a big word, and I don't usually use it unless somebody's really anti-Semitic, really misogynistic, really anti-black."

Earlier in the month, Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, tacitly compared Hillary Clinton to Hitler, saying, "Mrs. Clinton backed the crime bill and then called our young people super predators. Of course she apologized, but just a minute. See, Hitler could've said to the Jews after Auschwitz, 'I'm so sorry.' Would that be enough to satisfy you?"

Back in June, a headline on the *Daily Kos* claimed that "Jeff Sessions endorses Nazi-style fascism." Sessions is now Trump's nominee for the position of Attorney General.

But this is nothing new.

In June, 2004, John Leo reported that comparing President George W. Bush to Hitler was "no longer confined to loonies," pointing to the comments of Judge Guido Calabresi, "former dean of the Yale Law School and a moderate liberal," who "said Bush's rise to power was strikingly similar to the rise of

Hitler and Mussolini.” Leo also noted, “Senator Robert Byrd, for example, says George Bush reminds him of Hermann Goering, thus forfeiting much of his heralded reputation for political seriousness.”

With the election of Donald Trump, a whole new wave of rhetoric has been unleashed. Typical are the comments of Frank Navarro, a Holocaust scholar who is now a high-school teacher, who stated that “there are remarkable parallels between Hitler and Donald Trump.”

On a more grass-roots level, those of us in the pro-family movement are used to being called Nazis and Hitler on an almost daily basis, a proven (and effective) strategy of gay activists for more than 25 years. As someone with the screenname of Astral Haze posted on one of my web pages back in March, “all homophobic people are hitler (sic).” Of course, if you do not affirm any of the goals of gay activism, you are homophobic, and therefore you are Hitler.

This horrific name-calling needs to stop, not only because it defames the living but also because it mocks the dead—specifically, the victims of Hitler and his henchmen.

Of course these days, it seems the left is branding almost all of its political and ideological opponents as racist or sexist or misogynist or Nazi or the like (Farrakhan’s attack on Hillary Clinton is in a class of its own). The more white supremacist groups celebrate Trump’s victory (despite Trump’s constant disavowal of their support), the more the radical left will say, “You see? We told you Trump was a Nazi.”

We are also reminded that Trump was elected on Nov. 8, one day before the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass (Nov. 8, 1938), the date many historians give for the beginning of the Holocaust. As Jennifer Mendelsohn tweeted, “Waking up on the anniversary of Kristallnacht to the news that America elected a demagogue. You can’t make this

stuff up.”

Neither can you make up the extreme, destructive and ugly nature of this rhetoric.

So to set the record straight, the day Steve Bannon or Hillary Clinton begins putting Jews (or women or blacks) on cattle cars, sending them to the gas chambers to be exterminated, is the day you can call him a Nazi and call her Hitler. As much as I deplore the abortion policies of Hillary Clinton, I will not call her Hitler.

And the day Jeff Sessions begins rounding up minorities, forcing them into crowded ghettos, putting them on starvation diets and depriving them of virtually all human rights, is the day you can accuse him of endorsing Nazi-style fascism.

And the day that Donald Trump rounds up hundreds of thousands of Mexicans or Muslims or blacks or Jews and forces them to dig ditches, strip naked and then take a bullet to the back of the head, or the day he throws the babies of these minorities into burning pits (Why waste a bullet on a baby?), or the day he authorizes medical experiments to be performed on minority twins (without anesthesia), or the day he uses the carcasses of his victims to make soap and lampshades is the day you can compare him to Hitler.

Until then (and I trust God such days will never come in our country), we do well to watch our words.

All this Nazi-Hitler rhetoric is beyond insulting. It is downright dangerous and terribly incendiary.