

Local Dems are trying to play the race card on me . . .

I received a request from Jon King of WHMI radio to comment on a Facebook post. The post implied that I condone white supremacy.

I've posted my comment to WHMI below because I want the public to view my statement entirety.

Livingston County Commissioner Candidate – District 6, Kasey Helton (D) recently published a Facebook post implying that I condone “white supremacy” because I quoted Hans-Hermann Hoppe. More specifically, on July 3 Helton posted, “Here we have candidate for Livingston County Board of Commissioners Dist. 3 Wes Nakagiri quoting white supremacist and promoter of Nazi-centric philosophy Hans Hermann Hoppe on a local Facebook page he solo admin. Nakagiri is also the campaign manager for Ann Bollin for State Representative . . .” In her same Facebook post Ms. Helton added, “We demand and deserve better leadership, and I feel as though Wes should be called to answer for this post in the public sphere.”

If Ms. Helton, a former journalist, would have published these assertions at her old newspaper she clearly would have been guilty of journalistic malpractice, or in today’s vernacular, “fake news.” Had Ms. Helton contacted me I would have set the record straight for her. But as is the case in much of our politics today, many are more interested in scoring cheap political points rather than having a truly civil dialogue about important issues of the day.

Let me share with you what I would have shared with Ms. Helton had she taken the time to check her facts before publishing her article.

Ms. Helton states that I quoted Hans-Hermann Hoppe, “Democracy has nothing to do with freedom. Democracy is a soft variant of communism, and rarely in the history of ideas has it been taken for anything else.”

Fact: I did not quote Hoppe, as I did not post the Facebook article she objected to.

Ms. Helton states that I am the sole administrator for the local Facebook page that posted the Hoppe quote.

Fact: I am not the sole administrator.

Ms. Helton states that I am the Campaign Manager for Ann Bollin.

Fact: I am not Ann Bollin’s Campaign Manager.

Every fact I stated is objectively verifiable. In the future, I encourage Ms. Helton and other Democrats to reach out beyond their inner circles for the full and comprehensive story.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to address the politics of race. Ms. Helton suggests that I condone white supremacy. If Ms. Helton took the time to know me personally she would know how absurd her suggestion is.

If she took the time to reach out and have a civil dialogue she would know that:

- I am an American of Japanese descent.
- My grandparents immigrated (legally) to America in the 1920's.
- My mother and her family were stripped of their freedom by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (D) and sent to internment camps.
- This past Father's Day I volunteered with FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) to make lunches for impoverished children in Inkster, Michigan. According to census statistics, Inkster is over 70% African-American.
- I believe in equal opportunity for all Americans.

Similarly, if Ms. Helton took the time to learn more about race relations in America she would learn:

- Democrats defended the institution of slavery.
- Democrats aligned with the KKK to re-establish white supremacy after the Civil War.
- Locally in Livingston County, KKK leader Bob Miles was a Campaign Manager for the Presidential campaign of white supremacist Governor George Wallace (D - Alabama).

Does the fact that Ms. Helton's political party has long been associated with racism make Ms. Helton a racist? Well, if one were to subscribe to Ms. Helton's political tactics, one would have to conclude yes.

I however, do not subscribe to the divisive racial identity politics so prevalent in today's Democrat Party. I just wish that Ms. Helton would develop a better command of her facts and her party's history before she decides to play the race card on me again.

Wes Nakagiri (R)

Candidate - Livingston County Board of Commissioners, District 3