

News

Trump Speaks of Ending 'Carnage' As He Enters

By Lauren Victoria Burke
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Donald Trump's inaugural address was heavy on nationalism and populism. It also was light on any attempt to bridge the divide between his supporters and those who didn't support him, thousands of whom marched in the streets at record numbers the day after his inaugural.

Speaking for 16 minutes, the new president made no attempt to reach out to those who did not support him though he received 2.8 million fewer votes than his challenger Hillary Clinton, the largest popular vote margin loss for any elected president in history.

Trump now enters office with the lowest approval numbers in history and failed to comment in any way on his predecessor, President Obama, during his speech. Trump did salute Bill and Hillary Clinton at congressional lunch after the inauguration ceremony.

"I'm very honored" the Clintons came to my inauguration Trump said in a rare act of graciousness unseen during the campaign.

But Trump also went on to further stereotype urban communi-



President-elect Donald Trump takes the oath of office during his inauguration at the United States Capitol on January 20, 2017.

ties within a narrative of crime and problems as he often did during the 2016 campaign.

Trump told the crowd of dignitaries and other onlookers that America has, "an education system flush with cash, but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of all knowledge; and the crime and the gangs and the drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential. This American carnage stops right here and stops right now."

However, research shows that all crime, especially the murder rate, has declined over the last 20 years.

"It was the meanest lowdown speech I've ever heard," said Rep. Jaimie Raskin (D-Md.), a new member of the U.S. House.

"As I said previously, it is quite simply wrong for the president to use his position of power to continue to make racist, sexist, and bigoted statements that demean American citizens in order to score points with his political base," wrote Rep. Alcee Hastings hours after the inauguration. "I will not play a part in normalizing divisive rhetoric that adds nothing to the critical conversations we face in the near future."

Hastings, along with 62 other member of the House, did not attend.

How Trump will actually govern, no one knows. He enters office as the oldest and least qualified individual to ever become President of the United States. Trump is the first person to become president, who has never served in elected office or been a member of the military. Many Washington watchers believe that vice president, Mike Pence, will likely play a key role in moving Trump's agenda forward.

Trump's staff was quick to rewrite the WhiteHouse.org website.

A section on law enforcement read, "the Trump Administration will be a law and order administration. President Trump will honor our men and women in uniform and will support their mission of protecting the public. The dangerous anti-police atmosphere in America is wrong. The Trump Administration will end it."

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to connect the money to White evangelicalism to the policies of extremism and racism, because some of our own folk are sending money to some of these TV White evangelicals."

Barber said that the loss of the full protections of the Voting Rights Act and voter suppression were two of the most underreported stories during the last election cycle.

"Long before any Russian hack, the American electoral process was hacked by systemic racism and fear," said Barber. "The Southern Strategy is alive and well."

Barber acknowledged that civil rights leaders and Democrats could have voiced louder criticism about the lack of work done in the U.S. Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act.

"Democrats talked more about David Duke than they did about voter suppression and the Voting Rights Act being dismantled," said Barber.

Barber said that they were 868 fewer voting places across the nation; those closures disproportionately affected Black voters.

"Voter suppression has been proven, voter fraud has been disproven. The lie about voter fraud is a distraction from the truth about voter suppression, because voter

suppression is about thievery. You scratch a liar, you'll find a thief," said Barber. "Trump won because of the voter suppression that went on in the Black community."

After delivering brief history of fusion politics, a time when poor Whites and Blacks worked together to achieve political power in the South following the Civil War, Barber questioned why so many poor, White people today cast votes for lawmakers that oppose establishing living wage standards, better healthcare and more educational opportunities for low-income families.

The North Carolina pastor noted that there are 18.9 poor White people in the United States, about eight million more than the number of poor Black people, though Black people experience poverty at higher rates than Whites.

Barber said that exploring the real reasons why so many poor Whites vote against their own self-interest would make for a great investigative report.

"Can we just make a decision, Black folks? Can we just make a decision, publishers? Can we just make a decision, civil rights...that bowing down is not an option?"

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