

The magic of President Obama is that he got us to believe...Yes We Can.

That simple sentence got us to believe in ourselves... to fix what was wrong...to renew our hope...to fight for change.

Lost on us however, is the word "can."

What we can do.

He didn't suggest that we can go back in time and erase America's racism. Because we can't do that. We can change things now and for tomorrow.

Barack Obama didn't say we can go back in time to end the War in Vietnam. Because we can't. But we can avoid making the same mistakes today with the lives of our brave women and men in the Armed Services.

He didn't say we can go back in time and change all the elections that were held when so many Americans didn't have the right to vote. Because we can't.

But we can vote today to keep a racist out of the Oval Office...we can keep Trump from sitting at President Obama's desk...we can keep Trump from picking up the President's phone and barking out his racist orders.

Listen to these quotes.

"If the yellow people should rise against the white, what hideous possibilities confront us."<sup>1</sup>

Here's another one:

"Mexican immigration will lower our standard of living."<sup>2</sup>

And another: "We need a complete shutting off of immigration."<sup>3</sup>

That wouldn't have been said about the millions of quote "immigrants" who were brought here on slave ships. No one wanted to shut off that immigration.

Mayor Emanuel, you rightly called on us all to reject what you called Trump's "language of hatred."<sup>4</sup>

I agree.

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<sup>1</sup> R. McCormick, in a letter to his mother. Found in Smith, Richard Norton. *The Colonel: The Life and Legend of Robert R. McCormick, 1880-1955*. Houghton Mifflin. 1997. Page 157

<sup>2</sup> "Restrict Mexican Immigration." *Chicago Daily Tribune* (1923-1963): 14. Mar 21 1930. ProQuest. Web. 17 May 2016.

<sup>3</sup> "Immigration Policy." *Chicago Daily Tribune*. June 5, 1929. Page 14.

<sup>4</sup> Ruthhart, Bill. "Rahm Emanuel targets Donald Trump's 'language of hatred' at Holocaust dinner." *Chicago Tribune*. March 18, 2016.

But none of those words that I just quoted were Donald Trump's.

They were words editorialized in the *Chicago Tribune* under the leadership of Chicago's own Robert McCormick - the racist publisher of the Chicago Tribune many decades ago.

In 1960, Chicago named McCormick Place after him. We're having breakfast in the Hyatt McCormick Place.

I'm not proposing that we change the name of our convention center or this hotel.

I want to talk about today and tomorrow.

We can change the *lives* of those whose *livelihood* is earned here.

Hotel workers in our union...the women and men who cooked this meal, serve it to us, and clean up after us all have \$26 dollar per-hour jobs when you include their family health benefits and their union pension. \$26 dollars per hour now...\$8 dollars an hour when I started here in Chicago not that many years ago. \$26 dollars per hour now...and \$30 dollars isn't that far away.

Around this convention center new hotels will be built. New restaurants will open. The Green Line will bring greenbacks to the owners of those businesses.

What would you say...or do...if the Convention Center authorities proposed to name this entire new and vibrant neighborhood after Donald Trump?

Would anyone even dare to suggest that?

Trump consistently insults Muslims, women, Mexicans, immigrants, and all but that one African American - the guy he called "my African American."

Shamefully, today's convention center authority wants to repeat the mistake made in 1960.

They're paying some consultant \$250,000 to name and market this new neighborhood "McCormick Square."<sup>5</sup>

I guess that's why it's quote "okay" that a new low-wage, no-rights, crummy jobs hotel project has already been given the green light.

I guess if you name a neighborhood after a racist in 2016, it's okay to continue to promote economic segregation with women and men of color slaving away for conventioners.

Thank God that under Chicago's Municipal Code, only the City Council can name a neighborhood.

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<sup>5</sup> Danny Ecker. "McPier's latest move to draw crowds involves a name change." *Crain's Chicago Business*. April 9, 2016.

Ladies and gentlemen, you're PUSH. I want you to know that the women and men of UNITE HERE - Chicago's hospitality workers - are gonna' push with you.

Push for more \$26 an hour jobs and push back against more low-wage jobs.

Push for jobs with family health benefits and push back against jobs with no benefits.

Push for the dignity that comes when working people have the union rights on the job to say "no" to unfair treatment, say "no" to sexual harassment, say "no" to discrimination and indignity.

It's bad enough that non-Union hotel jobs *suck*...but don't ask us to *suck it up* and go to work in an entire neighborhood that gets named in 2016 after a hater who sounds just like Trump and hated like Trump.

In November, you and me and all of us will beat Trump's hate with our votes.

But if - God forbid - Trump becomes the President, then each of us will be called on to bring back to life Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s defiance of unjust laws.

I am here to speak with you. Not to tell you what you should do.

I will tell you what I will do...

As a leader of a union with so many immigrants, I will disobey President Trump's orders to round them up and ship them out.

As a Jew, I will disobey President Trump's orders that persecute Muslims.

As a woman, I will disobey his orders to deny women their freedom of choice.

As an American, I will disobey President Trump...

And as a Chicagoan, I will be damned in hell if I allow any neighborhood in Chicago where our union members work to be named in 2016 after Trump's forefather - Robert McCormick.

Thank you.