

[June 25, 2018]

In case you just crawled out from under a rock, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked to leave Lexington, Virginia "farm-to-table" eatery The Red Hen this past Friday. Owner Stephanie Wilkinson told *The Washington Post* she made Sanders take the Walk of Shame because "the restaurant has certain standards that I feel it has to uphold, such as honesty, and compassion, and cooperation", the staff making it clear to her during an emergency meeting they have no use for Sanders and even-less use for her boss, one Donald J. Trump. Ergo, Sanders was "voted off the island", as they say on *"Survivor"*. Wilkinson said she has no regrets and would do it again.

Needless to say, the Left and their media peeps are giddy with glee, giving props to Meryl Streep's cousin for taking a "fearless" stand against tyranny. Forget none of these dingbats have the first clue as to what actual tyranny is, it's enough that calling Trump "Hitler" gives them all the feels. And Hitler just had to get in on the hi-jinks: "The Red Hen Restaurant should focus more on cleaning its filthy canopies, doors and windows (badly needs a paint job) rather than refusing to serve a fine person like Sarah Huckabee Sanders. I always had a rule: if a restaurant is dirty on the outside, it is dirty on the inside!"

Sanders's Walk of Shame came days after Department of Homeland Security honcho Kirstjen Nielsen was hounded out of a Washington, D. C. eatery by hecklers protesting the policy of separating "families" who attempt to enter the United States illegally (conveniently ignoring that their god Obama did the exact same thing!), which has been used by The Useful Idiots to rile-up their already-unhinged base into a rabid frenzy.

Sanders has been a target-rich environment since her first press briefing in May 2017, filling in for Sean Spicer, who resigned that July ("costing" comic Melissa McCarthy her gig as Spicer on *"Saturday Night Live"*); she has been "wrassling" the with the ladies and gentlemen of the press since. Her Huckleberry Hound-like persona - complete with droopy eyes, authentic Southern drawl, and portly proportions - hasn't escaped the notice of political cartoonists, most of whom portray her as the dumber-than-dirt mouthpiece for the Hitler régime. At this year's White House Correspondents' Dinner (which Hitler skipped), Sanders was skewered by comic Michelle Wolf in an expletive laden routine which would have made Lenny Bruce blush. While some ladies and gentlemen of the press feigned shock, most not only defended Wolf, but blasted the organizers for throwing Wolf to the wolves.

The aforementioned dingbats have been playing What's-Good-For-The-Goose-Is-Good-For-The-Gander, drawing parallels between Sanders's Walk of Shame and the recent Supreme Court decision in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case. If a baker can refuse to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, the dingbats at @thinkprogress "reasoned" (while accusing conservatives of pushing a false equivalency), then a restaurateur can force anyone to take the

Walk of Shame. So, Chrissy Teigen (who called Sanders and Trump "morons") and her worse half John Legend (who demanded Sanders resign) are conservatives, "Think"Progress? Who's going to break the bad news to them?

As I have been shouting from the rooftops, a wedding cake is a specialty item, requiring a contract the merchant and client(s) enter into willingly. In other words, you can't force me to do business with you; I can't force you to do business with me. Sanders asking Wilkinson to cater an event and Wilkinson refusing (as I am sure she would) is a better analogy. Otherwise, apples and kumquats!

Mike Huckabee told Trish Regan after his little girl was forced to take the Walk of Shame, their party went to another eatery as Wilkinson harassed Sanders and her husband. Snopes said the party went to the Southern Inn, a block from The Red Hen, where they ran into Wilkinson; it's unclear if she followed them or it was just a VERY awkward meet-and-greet. Anyhoo, in a truly-sick attempt to discredit Guv Mike, one Twitter user dug up a twisted nugget about a felon who raped and killed two women after being released from prison by The Guv. By this "logic", Obama is responsible for the terrorist acts the Guantanamo detainees he swapped for Bowe Bergdahl committed after their release.

But let's not go there.

This whole mess doesn't pass the smell test. The Red Hen seats just 26 people. Although its website says it accepts walk-ins, reservations are preferred. Sanders's husband made reservations, so everyone there knew she was coming! Contrary to what she wants the world to believe, Wilkinson received no frantic phone call from the chef informing her Huckleberry Hound had arrived (the chef is way-too busy overseeing the kitchen to freak-out over who just walked through the door), there was no emergency meeting (the staff is way-too busy working the tables to freak-out over who just walked through the door), and there was no "vote her off the island" moment. That would have taken time away from the patrons, and, in a small boutique eatery, that is suicide!

There is also the matter of the waiter who missed the "emergency meeting". Hours before Sanders confirmed her Walk of Shame (to the howls from the What's-Good-For-The-Goose-Is-Good-For-The-Ganders, who accused her of breaking the law by using her government Twitter to, as Obama's White House "ethics" czar Walter Shaub huffed, "condemn a private business for personal reasons"), the waiter posted the culinary calamity to his Facebook, noting Wilkinson asked Sanders to step outside after her party had been seated. If you think a kid making minimum wage is going to agree to lose a 9-top because his boss wants to play Social Justice Warrior, I have some oceanfront property in Arkansas for sale! Cheap!

What really happened - the ONLY way this could have gone down - is that Wilkinson told someone to call her when Sanders arrived so she could hop in her car, drive to the eatery, and bag her 15 minutes of infamy! Aside from the fact that she has jeopardized her employees' careers with her stunt, AND put other eateries which have the misfortune of sharing the same name in cross-hairs (owners of other Red Hens claimed to have received nasty calls, even threats), she violated The Pareto Principle.

The Pareto Principle was named by economist Joseph Juran for economist Vilfredo Pareto. In *Cours d'Économie Politique* (1896), Pareto put forth what was dubbed the "80/20 rule", noting 80% of the land in Italy was owned by 20% of the populous. Juran applied the "80/20 rule" to commerce: 80% of a business's revenue is generated by 20% of its clients.

In the hospitality industry - where profit margins are razor-thin - you cannot afford to piss anyone off. Stephanie Wilkinson has pissed A LOT of people off. Irony of ironies, on the window of The Red Hen is a sign: "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend". Let's hope Meryl will allow Cousin Stephanie to crash on the couch.

UPDATE: Wilkinson resigned from Main Street Lexington, an organization which supports small businesses in Lexington, after the group blasted her actions on its Facebook. She apologized to Sanders and Trump [June 26, 2018]

UPDATE: Sanders was elected governor of Arkansas [November 9, 2022]