

COMMENTARY *By* DR. DHANPAUL NARINE

Donald Trump is Losing it!



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Whatever happens in November 2016 we will be stuck with a President that is deeply flawed. The person will either be as shallow as a reef when it comes to domestic and foreign policy or one that cannot distinguish the truth from fiction. In the case of Donald Trump he has stirred a cocktail of hate and vitriol and is allowed to get away with it. But the mood may be turning against him largely as a result of his own doing.

As far as Hillary Clinton is concerned she insists that she is telling the truth when the facts show otherwise. The fact is that over 60 percent of the electorate cannot trust Hillary Clinton but what is worrying is that she may become president with her credibility in tatters. Is this the best that a democracy of 300 million people can offer? The answer to this question will help to throw light on the current of state of politics in America and the steps that ought to be taken to restore some decency to the process.

Donald Trump, the Republican candidate, has done remarkably well to come this far. A year ago he was seen as someone that would make the usual noises but who would fall by the wayside. This did not happen.

There is no question that Trump tapped into a deep reservoir of discontent in America. In January 2016 a New York Times/CBS News poll found that 65 percent of Americans felt that their country was moving in the wrong direction. The Pew Research Center, a few months earlier, found that 80 percent of Americans could not trust the government.

A Gallup poll showed in January 2016 that only 4 in 10 Americans rate the current situation as positive 'which is well below historical averages.' When more than 55 percent of the population say that ordinary Americans can do a better job than the elected officials it can be concluded that there is a disconnect with the establishment

politicians. One headline screamed that Trump is up in the polls because 'Americans are down in the dumps.'

On his way to the Republican nomination Trump bumped into walls. This was not the

'small hands', and his apparent racist comments about Judge Gonzalo Curiel were picked up in the mainstream media but failed to stick. The same could be said about the tweet concerning Scotland. Trump tweeted that the Scots had taken their country back in the Brexit vote. What he failed to realize was that Scotland voted to remain in the European Union.

Trump's branding of Hillary Clinton as a corrupt candidate beside a Star of David was criticized as was his wife's speech at the Republican National Convention. A good part of Melania's speech was copied word-for-word from Mi-

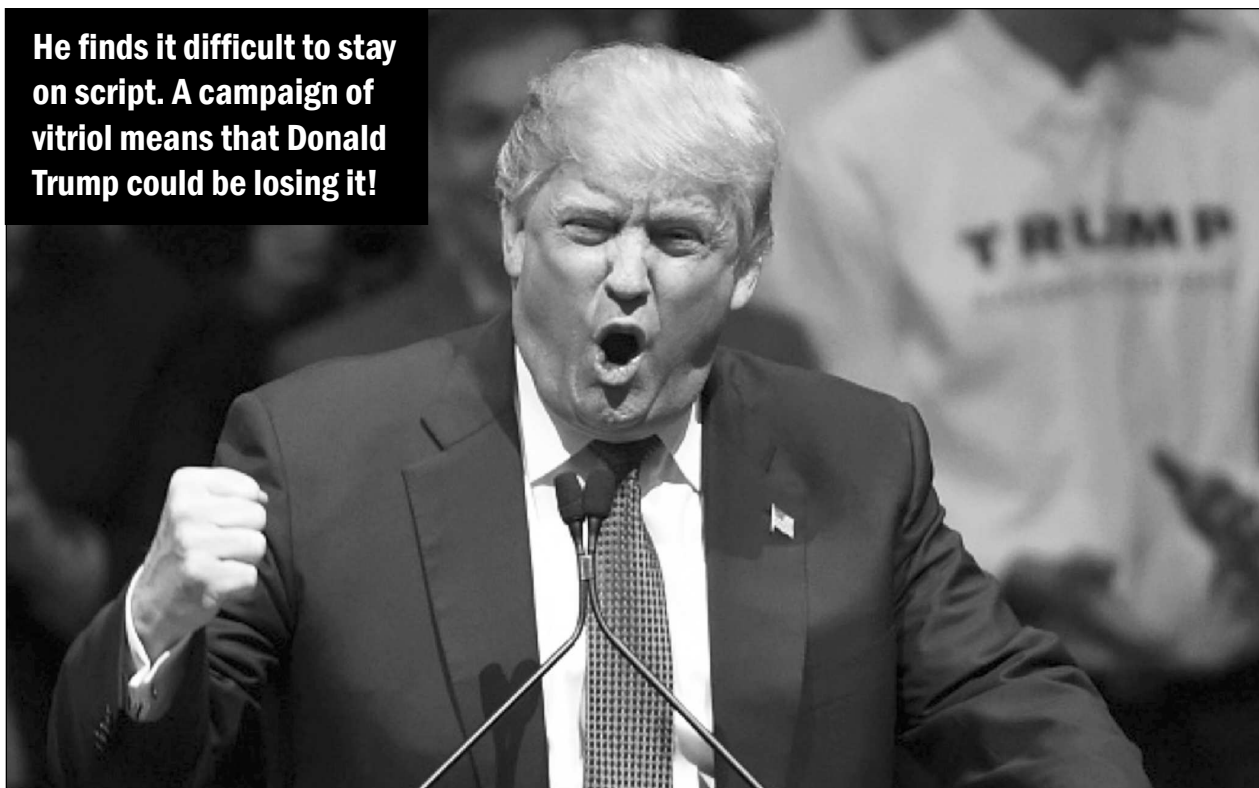
into enemy territory. He died so that other members of his squad might live. Captain Khan is an American hero. Any Presidential candidate worth his salt would respect that and acknowledge it. Trump seized on the fact that Khan's mother 'was just standing there' with nothing to say. This is a 'nothing' statement and one wonders who is really advising Trump.

A sensible strategy would have been for him to acknowledge Captain Khan as an American hero and to ask that the same respect be accorded to the Benghazi victims, and then move on to another subject. What occurred instead was a

there were decisions discussed and made to classify retroactively certain of the emails.'

This is not what Director Comey said which makes Clinton's response maddeningly irritating. Wasn't it another Clinton that had the nation in a similar twist and spin with 'it depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is?' It is time that Hillary breaks with the semantics and own up to her mistakes and move on. As it stands, Trump strains the patience of the electorate with his off the cuff remarks while Hillary dances around the truth. This is the choice that the voters have for President!

He finds it difficult to stay on script. A campaign of vitriol means that Donald Trump could be losing it!



one he wanted to build separating Mexico from the United States. There were the comments he made against Megyn Kelly about 'blood coming out wherever' and not even elder statesman John McCain was exempt from Trump's wrath.

McCain was no hero, according to Trump. He explained that capture doesn't make one a hero. 'I like people that weren't captured,' said Trump. As his supporters applauded Trump was emboldened to say that he could stand up in Fifth Avenue and shoot someone and still attract voters.

His comments about

chelle Obama's speech that she gave in 2008 at the Democratic National Convention.

But Trump was to commit his most irrational gaffe yet. He chose the parents of Captain Humayun Khan to start a feud. The Khans are from a warrior clan. They are unafraid to get in a scrap and they usually come out ahead. They cannot be easily fired. Trump found that to his dismay when he tried to belittle the contribution of the Khan family.

Captain Humayun Khan gave his life for his country, the United States of America. In so doing he saved the lives of others by walking

full blast media coverage that refused to go away. It was as if Hillary Clinton had let loose Khizr and Ghazala Khan to see Trump self-destruct. There is the feeling that Clinton sprung a trap and Trump fell into it.

Clinton had a bump in the polls that saw her widen her lead by about 10 percentage points over Trump. Why then does she continue to be economical with the truth? She cannot rid herself of the email scandal. She told Chris Wallace of Fox News, 'Director Comey said my answers were truthful, and what I said is consistent with what I have told the American people, that

Many of Trump's supporters have stated that his comments are a response to the live audience and the big turnouts that he has in the various arenas. But it is interesting to note that what goes on at those meetings are fuelled by hate. The New York Times covered some of the Trump rallies for over a year and found that there was a great deal of anger and name-calling bordering on violence.

There were attacks on Islam, denigrating Mexicans and immigrants and President Obama and Hillary Clinton. Trump calls it a 'movement' but it is clear that he feeds off the crowds and that

they are energized by him. This is a dangerous concoction that can lead to hate and division long after the elections.

Trump is not short of advice as to what he can do to win the elections. Some observers think that he needs to call out a big chunk of the white vote.

The white vote, some believe, will make or break Trump. Statisticians say that, 'whites are still about 70 percent of America's voters. That means if they voted as a bloc they could choose the president even if every single non-white voted the other way.'

Whites under 30 who never went to college are the obvious Trump supporters. When he says that he will be their voice Trump was appealing directly to this population. Trump's base then is the white working class males. Obama received only 36 per cent of this vote in 2012 but what should be noted is that the Democrats have won the popular vote in the past six elections.

Obama polled 5 million more votes than Romney in 2012. Trump needs all that voted for Romney and another 5 million. These have to be in the swing states that include Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida. But Trump isn't doing himself any favors. He finds it hard to stay on script. His messages are not on point and unless he can move away from being a developer and have a handle on the issues Trump will be the runner-up in the elections. His utterances make it clear that he is losing it!

The views expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of THE WEST INDIAN.