

## BUSH, ENGLISH, AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

“I am not trained as a psychologist,” said Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress in the 3rd CD of Pennsylvania, in a press release issued from his home today. “But, as a requirement of my college degrees, I have taken many courses in psychology. I have recently begun to look at the clinical descriptions of psychopathic behavior with respect to the current administration. It is quite eye-opening, and I believe the time for a public discussion of the matter has come in light of the continued slaughter in Iraq.”

Porter cited an article posted on MSN which contained the following description of a political psychopath. “The psychopathic charismatic leader manipulates others to obtain status, control, money, compliance, attention. His tactics often employ both religious and political venues. He targets the naïve, the vulnerable, the uneducated, the mentally weak. He falsely portrays himself to be virtuous: a loving husband, a good father, a spiritual leader, an advisor, a mentor, a friend.”

“The classic signs of psychopathic behavior,” Porter went on, “are fairly universally agreed-upon. They include a superficial charm, an attitude of self-importance, behavior which is deceptive, frequent lying, little remorse or guilt, a lack of empathy, and the tendency to blame others for the repercussions of one’s own actions. I do not have the expertise to call President Bush a psychopath, but there is little doubt in my mind that elements of his behavior and those of his administration, particularly with respect to both Iraq and Katrina, are clearly psychopathic in nature.

“That is bothersome enough,” said Porter, “but I think what bothers me more is the way in which America has reacted to Bush. In comparison to what I saw during the Vietnam War, there has not been much outcry against the continued and unnecessary slaughter in Iraq. Most people have not been touched personally by it, either by the casualties or the costs. The media has been pretty much brain-dead in its commentary, and many voices in the media have actually been supportive of the Bush policies. Press releases like this one are rarely published and even more rarely discussed. All of which leads me to fear what my nation has become and to think of the social psychopathology of Germany from the 1920s to the end of World War II.

“The position of Congressman English with regard to this issue is that he has been compliant with Bush in the extreme, as have many politicians. We don’t need those kinds of representatives any more. What we need are caring statesmen.”