

## VIEWPOINT

# What if we stopped this candidate?

By Tim O'Toole

What if there were a presidential candidate who did not care who he offended? A candidate who thought that what made America great was unregulated capitalism, gambling casinos and beauty contests? A candidate who rebounded from numerous bankruptcies only to become richer at other peoples' expense?

And what if this candidate suggested that being born in America did not make you an American? A candidate who suggested that if your parents had come into our

country on the sly, you could be deported with them? Not just Mexicans, but Canadians, Irish, Russians, Africans and Armenians.

And why stop at just parents? How about grandparents or great-grandparents?

To be on the safe side, you should log on to Ancestry.com right away, to ensure that your own birthright is secure. Check back at least three or four generations.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Sen. Marco Rubio and other prominent political figures should do so without delay.

And what about Sen. John McCain (the captured hero),

born in the Panama Canal Zone? Or Mitt Romney, whose father George was born in Mexico to Mormon missionary parents?

There is a new Silent Majority forming in America — consisting of citizens who say nothing in the face of racism, sexism, ethnic bias and bigotry, abetted by a media that gives free publicity to a latter-day P. T. Barnum. This reminds me of a lamentable situation in another country, long before I was born (in Albany, N.Y. — I have papers).

*"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a So-*

*cialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me."*

— **Martin Niemöller**

The odds of me winning a million dollars in the lottery are better than the odds of me voting for such a candidate, even if I am a registered Republican. If only we could impeach a candidate BEFORE he became president.

► *Tim O'Toole lives in Albany.*