

H A R L A N   R I C H A R D S

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Wikileaks - the Julian Assange Controversy

Until the 2016 presidential election, I was a Wikileaks supporter. I agreed with their objective of obtaining incriminating government documents and making them available to the public.

Does anyone remember Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers? Or "Deep Throat" and how his revelations exposed the worst criminal we've ever had in the White House (Richard Nixon)? These were patriots acting for the good of our country and I applaud them all.

But Julian Assange crossed the line in 2016 when he took an active part in helping the Russians elect Donald Trump. Had he not posted the hacked emails of the Democratic National Committee right before the election, Trump would not have won. Had he waited until after the election, that would have been fine. But we need to send a clear message that foreign nationals who interfere in our elections must pay a price for that interference. The same way the Russians involved were indicted and will face trial if we can ever get our hands on them, Assange also needs to answer for his actions.

We need whistle blowers. We especially need someone to leak the Mueller Report on Russian interference in the 2016 election. But we don't need someone using hacked materials to swing our presidential election to their preferred candidate.