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## Cato's Jerry Taylor, Corner Quisling!

[Michael C. Moynihan](#) | May 13, 2009, 4:54pm

A note to Cato Institute senior fellow Jerry Taylor: If you want to diss the Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh cultists, best not do it on the *National Review* group blog. [Writing on The Corner](#), Taylor makes a handful of perfectly sensible points about Limbaugh's "sub-Nixon popularity figures" and the sometimes "dubious logic and dodgy evidence being forwarded to buttress [talk radio hosts'] arguments." As Taylor notes, he's not against conservative talk radio but would simply rather have a smarter, "better conservative talk radio."

And that's when the fun started.

Katherine Jean Lopez, doyenne of the Corner and editor of *National Review Online*, [says](#) that what Taylor wrote was "reckless" and that it ill-serves the conservative movement to attack those who dumb it down, like Sean Hannity. Mark Steyn piles on, writing that Taylor is but an "[obscure think-tanker](#)" whose argument is "pathetic on its face, and an embarrassment to *National Review*," while defending the wisdom of radio host, *NR* contributor, and best-selling author Mark Levin. (It is, apparently, not embarrassing when Levin bellows that former *National Review* staffer David Frum is a "Canadian a-hole," a "jerk," and a "putz" who writes "pathetic books and pathetic articles.")

According to Lopez, "Rush and Sean are incredible assets for the conservative movement." For the sake of argument, if I grant Steyn and Lopez that Limbaugh and Hannity possess an extraordinary ability to convert non-believers to the conservative cause (and I am not convinced that they do), this still doesn't address Taylor's point that they frequently do so using dubious sources and dodgy arguments. Is it defensible that, on a recent episode of his Fox program, Hannity fawned on the blogger Pamela Geller, who argues that Barack Obama is the [bastard child of Malcolm X](#)? Or how about Hannity's ridiculous pre-election "documentary" *Obama & Friends: The History of Radicalism*, which featured an interview with Andy Martin, originator of the "Obama-as-secret-Muslim" emails, [whose stated political goal](#) is the "exterminat[ion] of Jew power in America"?

Regardless, Steyn argues, it's "conservatism's only mass outlet" and it is doing rather well. So what's there to complain about?

I wrote about Limbaugh and the battle for ideological orthodoxy on the right [here](#).

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