

## **Romanovsky & Phillips "Be Political, Not Polite"**

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Language is a barometer of hatred and prejudice. We  
must be  
Vigilant in recognizing and discontinuing the use of  
words with  
Which we oppress each other.)  
When you speak you often use  
Some racist word or sexist phrase  
That makes me stop you in your tracks  
To note the error of your ways  
And I know you find it boring  
But it seems to me the only way  
To correct you, to object to  
The hurtful things you say  
Right the wrongs of human rights  
The risk you take can save a life  
Silence keeps us all in darkness  
We can't change it overnight  
But we can shed a little light  
Be political, not polite  
I cannot be satisfied  
Knowing just how much you care  
I want an ally with a voice  
Defending me when I'm not there  
'Cause being actively supportive  
Is the greatest gift that you could give  
By demanding understanding  
We can change the world in which we live  
Words can hurt, words can heal  
Make us think, make us feel  
And they're every bit as deadly  
As a bullet tearing through the land  
For if our words create the climate  
Then the blood is on our hands  
Every time we hear a joke  
That takes a shot at someone else  
If we speak up for their rights  
We are speaking for ourselves  
'Cause we will never have true freedom  
'Til everyone of us is free  
From the silence and the violence  
That's become our history

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