

Uncharacteristically quiet, Trump's thoughts on me were loud and clear



**Howie
CARR**

As he widens his lead in the polls, it's getting harder to pry a usable sound bite or headline out of Donald Trump.

Maybe he's beginning to believe he could win this thing.

Trump will be speaking to an SRO crowd in Worcester tonight at the DCU Center, so he came on my radio show yesterday. I had a whole list of questions, at least one of which I figured could set him off. But it's not as easy as in the old days, by which I mean July.

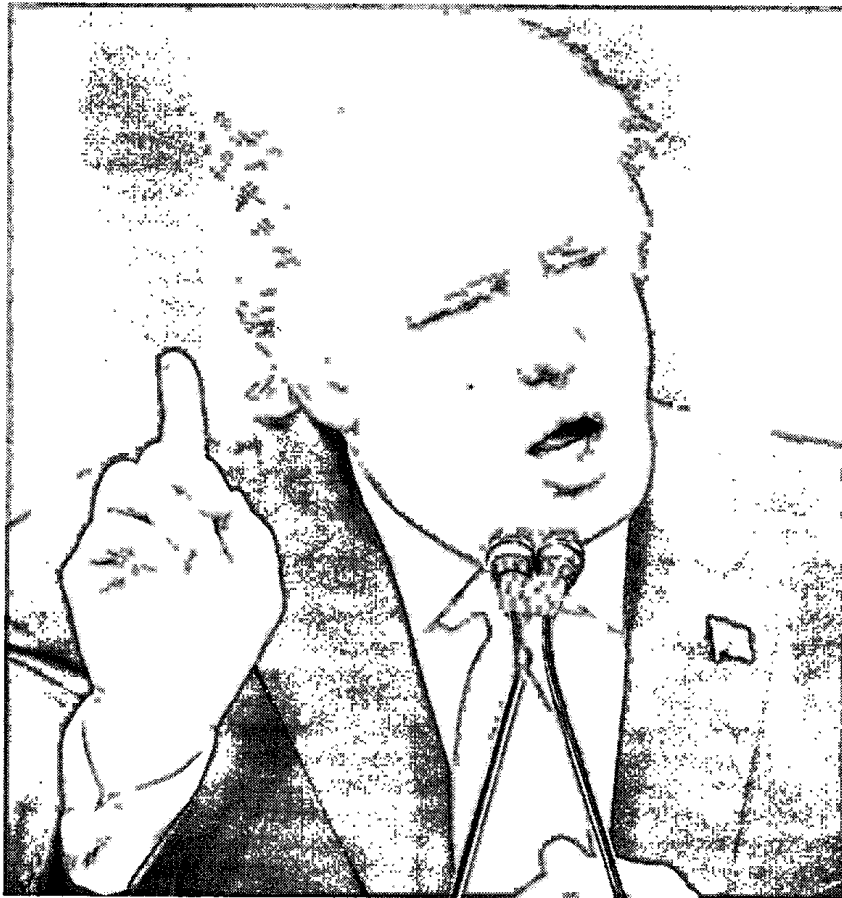
The closest I came to making the Drudge Report was when I reminded him of Gov. Charlie Baker, who hadn't shown up at Ernie Boch Jr.'s time for him in late August. But now, I told him, Charlie is willing to risk the slings and arrows of outrageous moonbats to pretty much toe your line against importing unvetted Syrian refugees into the U.S.

"Well, I don't know Charlie Baker," he said. "In all fairness to him, I'm not exactly what you'd call an establishment Republican. And I guess he'd prefer one of those characters to come in that have been selling us down — I say, politicians. All talk, no action. I think he'd probably prefer that."

Damn, for a second there I'd thought I had my headline — "Trump: RINOs selling us down the river." But at the last moment, he bit his tongue. Oh well, I had plenty of other material to work on Trump with.

Like the new UMass national poll of GOP voters, which had Trump up over Dr. Ben Carson, 31-22. But more amusing was that Juan Ellis Bush, whom Trump has been using as a punching bag, has now fallen into eighth place behind, among others, Gov. John Kasich, Carly Fiorina and even Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, with a mere 3 percent of the vote. Truly, money can't buy Jeb love.

Could I have teed it up any bet-



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AP PHOTO

'I WON'T FORGET IT': Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump appeared on Howie Carr's radio show yesterday and told Carr that he has 'been so amazing' and 'he appreciates it.'

ter for Trump? But he seemed almost sympathetic to his humbled, hapless foil. "I didn't realize he was that low. That's pretty low. That's not so good. I'm sure he can't be too happy about that."

Donald, that is not going to get my sound cuts onto "Fox & Friends." Okay, let's try again. John Kasich — now thundering against Syrians being imported into Ohio. But in September he was singing a different tune. I played the earlier sound for Trump:

"But I wouldn't say to people you can't come in," Kasich said. "I mean, we got the Statue of Liberty that says give us your tired, your poor, your people that want to be free."

"But," said Trump, "it doesn't say give us your criminals."

That's better, but not good

enough. Still, there was one way he could make me happy. Despite what they say, flattery will indeed get you somewhere.

"You've been so amazing," he told me. "And I appreciate it, Howie. I won't forget it ... The thing I love about you, you were there from the very beginning and I will not forget it. And I appreciate it. You know it's common sense, Howie, so much of it."

And that's how it ended. I just can't decide which job I'm better qualified for in the Trump administration come 2017 — White House press secretary, or maitre d' at Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach.

Probably the latter. I think it pays better.

See Howie Saturday at 3 p.m. at Liquor 'N More in Plymouth.