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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

**“I don’t think people understand how stressful it is to explain what’s going on in your head when you don’t even understand it yourself.”
Anonymous.**

REPUBLICAN IDENTITY CRISIS

In the wake of Mr. Trump’s departure from the presidency and his pending trial in the Senate on impeachment charges, many Republicans find themselves conflicted as to where they stand and who they support.

“Never Trumpers” are those Republicans who have been against Trump for several years believing he was a stain on their party.

“RINOS” (Republicans in name only) are those folks who more recently have come to a separation point with Mr. Trump. Prime among these would be, Liz Cheney, of Wyoming, Tom Rice of S. Carolina and eight other house members who joined the Democrats in voting to impeach president Trump.

“Trump Republicans” are those who have been steadfast from the start and who, as a group, are now bringing great pressure to bear on the congressional, “defectors”.

According to columnist, Jeremy Peters, “The future of the party isn’t the Never Trumpers; they abandoned ship. It’s the war between the new RINOS and the Trump Republicans.” Well, that’s all very interesting, but will some polling firm please give us a pie chart showing what percentage of Trump voters are in each category – a lot of hand wringing and confusion going on.

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL IN THE SENATE

So, on Monday evening we are once again to be treated to that ultra solemn procession, proceeding from the House through the rotunda to the Senate chambers, with Nancy, Pelosi, Schiff and Adler, among others, carrying the impeachment articles on a tray like the head of John the Baptist.

What a farce the last time, as they impeached the president for withholding money from Ukraine pending investigation of Biden's dealings in the country. What most people don't know or remember was that those temporarily withheld funds were mandated by the Congress, could be delayed, but could not be stopped by the president. They were paid, as mandated before the September 30th mandated payment date. Biden, in a nearly identical manner, withheld funds from Ukraine (as Ukraine was in his portfolio as Vice President) demanding that a Ukrainian, "corrupt" prosecutor, who was making big problems for the energy company, Burisma, be fired before funds would be released. Of course this was the same Burisma where Hunter Biden and his close friend, Devon Archer, sat on the board, together pocketing

more than \$1.2 million a year for their valued advice, or was it, connections?

Anyway, once again we will be treated to the same pageantry. This time there is a more relevant charge; did the president incite the rioters who invaded the Capitol? As noted in an earlier issue, Trump urged his supporters to march peacefully to the Capitol, but those who would impeach him point to more inflammatory rhetoric in the remainder of his speech.

As we, the horrified spectators, watched the invasion unfold, a curious thing – the vast majority of the insurgents were wearing distinctive outfits associated with a variety of militant groups, The proud Boys etc. Now, we come to find out in recent days that the FBI has identified that there was an organized conspiracy to attack the Capitol. These people weren't there to support Trump. They were there to attack the Government of the U.S. The Trump rally was simply their conveyance vehicle. All of this will be factored into what comes out at the trial.

Unlike the first political trial, and that was what it was –“political”, this time there are going to be some hard questions to answer. A couple of Republican Senators, Murkowski and Romney are already indicating they will probably vote for conviction. Reflecting on the aforementioned confusion in the Republican ranks, Senator McConnell, is really hedging his bets. As of last week he was suggesting that his fellow Republicans should, “vote their conscience”, not being sure in his own mind whether he just wants to get Trump out of the Republican orb or whether he should try to rally the troops in Trump’s defense.

Or, is there actually going to be a trial? Or, if there is a trial, are the results apt to be negated by the Supreme Court? Jonathan Turley is a respected constitutional lawyer and professor at Georgetown University, and yes, he does appear on Fox News. Professor Turley says the Constitution is explicit on the issue of the Senate trying an individual on impeachment charges. The Constitution states that only a “sitting president” may be tried by Senate trial. Professor Turley’s contention is that the Senate has no authority to try a person

who is no longer president. In any event, assuming a trial goes forward, we can expect weeks of acrimonious debate.

THE HARD HITTING PRESS

If you read the papers at all, you are aware that the liberal press – that’s about 90% of the news in print – was ebullient about the inauguration of President Biden. MSNBC’s Rachael Maddow was so overjoyed she said, “I’m a faucet that can’t turn off.” Noting she’d already gone through half a box of Kleenex.

But, time for the press corps to pull themselves together and get on with the serious business of the first press conference- questions to be asked about Americans weary of, and scared by, the pandemic, and record breaking joblessness. Well, not really- just didn’t have time – had to go with such heavy weights as, “Could you just give us some color about what it was like for him to go into the Oval Office...he’s been waiting for this for so long?” “Has he planned his first foreign trip yet?” “Will he keep Donald Trump’s Air Force One color scheme?” Jeez!!

A reporter was able to get a serious question directly to the president, whether the vaccines were rolling out too slowly. “Com’on” President Biden snapped, “Gimme a break man.” Yeah, cut him some slack here- only his second day in office.

WISDOM FROM THE AGES

Arthur Lubow, one of our fellow readers offers up a quote from King Lear. You’ll want to read it several times – interesting how there seems to be relevance to our own times.

**“No, no, no! Come he’s away to prison
We two will sing alone will sing like birds I’
The cage.
When thou dost ask me blessing, I’ll kneel
down.
And ask of thee forgiveness: so we’ll live,
And pray and sing, and tell old tales, and laugh
At gilded butterflies, and hear poor rogues
Talk of court news; and we’ll talk with them
too,
Who loses and who wins, who’s in, who’s out;
And take upon’s the mystery of things,
As if we were God’s spies; and we’ll wear out,**

**In a wall'd prison, pacts and sects of great ones
That ebb and flow by the moon."**

AND ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE

Another reader, who asks for anonymity for the outrageousness of his proposal and fear for his safety and that of his family, writes, "20% lunatics to the right of me. 20% lunatics to the left of me. Is there room for a 60% Fervent Moderate Party (FMP)? Will you lead the ticket?"

Wow! How flattering! If nominated, I will run. If elected I will serve – serve myself first, of course, as that is the model for most pols.

You know, I had been looking forward to doing something different in post pandemic days – was seriously considering a run for Chief Animal control officer for Palm Beach – but this – this chance to be a third party candidate for president- think I gotta go for it.

**First I need a catchy campaign slogan. How about," Make Hermits Irrelevant Now"
(MHIN)?- great on a baseball cap! Double edge**

significance here since, on the one hand it seems somewhat self effacing (voters love that). On the other hand, it speaks to all who have been virtual hermits for the past year and look forward to getting back to their Majong, Palm Beach Flower Balls and Danse du The' gatherings. Revitalization of those three activities, in particular, would be integral to my party platform.

Your scribe hates to bring up money, but I'm a bit short, and realize that a "Go Fund Me" campaign wont get the job done. So, here's my proposal. It's a bit of a risk for my supporters, but you're all immensely wealthy anyway.

I have been amazed over the years to watch the change in administrations – Democrats and Republicans alike – they all load up the garden- spot foreign service positions with ambassadorial appointments for their major financial supporters; men and/or women who are very wealthy and may have been very successful in their business careers, but don't know foreign policy issues from a tiddly-wink. While those wealthy donors become Ambassadors to the Court of St James, France

(Paris) and Italy (Rome), the truly deserving Foreign Service Officers who have toiled on behalf of the country for thirty years are finally given their first Ambassadorial appointment to such romantic places as the Democratic People's Republic of the Congo. - poor schmucks!

So, anyway, my modest fund raising proposal is to provide my supporters with a giving menu that will guarantee you an Ambassadorship when (and if - don't even think that way) I am elected.

Some examples: In the Obama administration 23 of 41 Ambassadorial appointments were to major donors. The amount donors paid for their Ambassadorships were rather paltry compared to previous administrations. The French Ambassador got his appointment for only \$630,000 while Austria went for \$450,000, a mere shadow of the more than \$2,000,000 needed to secure The Court of St James a couple of administrations back. Naturally, I would be hoping my supporters would hearken to those earlier days.

In doing this research, your scribe came upon information that could help burnish your credentials above and beyond your dollars – a noble title. Yes, you – Mr. and Mrs. Donor can become a Count or Countess. I never knew what a big deal this was. First, you must understand the hierarchy by memorizing the phrase, “Do men ever visit Boston?” That enables you to know that the order of importance/rank is Duke, Marquis, Earl (Count), Viscount and Baron. And, what a deal we have for you. You can get a non seated Count title for only \$266.79, or his and her titles for a total of \$409.08.

Ladies, can't you just imagine it, your husband becomes Ambassador to France and there you are having dinner at La Tour d'Argent, Count and Countess Foo, Foo, Foo. And of course, you'll be taking your six week winter break in Palm Beach, guaranteed to be invited to all the Balls, and you get to wear the big sash with the medals. Kinda makes you feel warm and good all over- right?

So there you have my campaign financing plan. In the remote possibility I am not elected, I will

not protest the results, but unfortunately will not be able to return any unexpended funds (it's against campaign protocol - mine). Should things not go according to plan, I hope my supporters will come and visit me and Frau Hermit in our just contracted for eight room villa at Seaside Acres in Fiji.

So, folks, let's get those dollars flowing soon - big things ahead for the Fervent Moderation Party.

THIS JUST IN

Mr. Trump has just announced his future plans. He had been asked to take over the 12 to 3PM radio slot that had been held by Rush Limbaugh, but realized it would interfere with his golf. Since he doesn't drink and hang around with the guys after a round, he's decided on an evening show, "Dinner with The Donald over Cheeseburgers, fries and coke." Major topics to include a hole by hole recap of today's game and trashing the Dems. For more info dial 1-442 837-35674 (I Hate Pelosi). That's really not nice since she says she prays

**for him every night. Was that before or after
she ripped up his State of the Union Speech?**

Your faithful scribe, PB