



## SPOTLIGHT

### ***Wolves in Sheep's Clothing***

*"Incentives matter. The current system incentivizes overspending, so we get overspending." - Elon Musk*

Recently, I heard President Biden brag about how he has almost single-handedly reduced the deficit. There are three glaring problems with that assertion.

First, Joe Biden is so decrepit and incompetent that he doesn't do anything singlehandedly. Second, the primary reason why the deficit fell was because many of the mandatory Covid-relief programs expired. Third, a slightly lower deficit still increases the national debt, which recently crossed the \$34 trillion threshold.

The problem with Joe, other career politicians, and the Washington establishment as a whole is that their primary motivation is self-preservation. In other words, they are as farsighted as the next election cycle... and that's it. Future generations be damned.

Like Elon Musk said in the quote above, the modus

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### ***Joe Biden's Mea Culpa***

(Mea culpa is a Latin phrase that means "my fault" or "my mistake" and is an acknowledgment of having done something wrong that could have - and should have - been avoided. In a religious context, it may be accompanied by symbolically beating the breast when uttering the words.)

In other words, it's time for Joe Biden to beat his breast. Multiple times, until he is black and blue.

And so, in his own words, here is Geritol Joe's personal apology to the American people...

"First, let me say that we only have a few minutes of lucidity here because my medication is about to wear off and I will soon revert to a state of total confusion. Kind of like Cinderella, whose carriage turned back into a pumpkin when the clock struck midnight. By the way, I once dated her back in Scranton and boy did her hair smell good. I also drove a pumpkin... I mean a carriage... I mean an 18-wheeler. Whatever... 10-4, good buddy and watch out for those smokeys."

"Back to Scranton and the time I stared down Corn Pop. Or was that Wilmington and Popcorn? Oh well, it really doesn't make a difference. All I know is that I once challenged Donald Trump to a fight behind the school gym when we were class-

mates, but he didn't show up. Now where were we?"

"Oh, that's right, the American people were about to apologize to me for making me wait 32 years to be elected president. That's right, no joke, I started running for president back in 1988 when I was still in law school. By the way, I finished first in my class and Golda Meir personally handed me my diploma. No joke, I'm serious."

"Anyway, back to your apology for making me run three times before winning. What? I'm supposed to say I'm sorry to you? For what? Darn medicine."

"O.K., O.K., I'm sorry for doing such a lousy job as president. Don't blame me, though. After all, I was mentored by Barack Obama, and we all know what a lousy job he did in office. Every time I turned around, he was drawing a different red line somewhere in Syria."

"Back to my apology, you say? All right, for what it's worth, I apologize for overturning every single border policy that Donald Trump implemented. Yes, I realize now that he was right and that his policies were working. After all, I have a fence around the White House, and another one around Camp David, and two more around my houses in Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach... so why not have one at our southern border? In my defense, just let me

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## ***Wolves in Sheep's Clothing***

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operandi in Washington D.C. - and most state capitals for that matter - is to spend now and figure how to pay for it later. Tragically but predictably, that same mindset has taken root in homes across the fruited plain, resulting in mountains of crushing personal debt.

The solution? Politicians with enough courage to tell the truth to the American people and voters who are smart enough to recognize that truth and reward the truth-tellers. Sadly, instead of electing and then re-electing such fiscal heroes (i.e. patriots), voters tend to cast their ballots for the spineless cowards who make promises they can't keep with money that isn't theirs.

When will Americans come to the realization that they are being had? Wolves in sheep's clothing sit on both sides of the congressional aisle and in statehouses across our increasingly insolvent country, buying votes with the taxpayers' own money.

Wake up, America... you are being played!

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## ***Joe Biden's Mea Culpa***

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say that my lawn service was shorthanded, and they needed a few more landscapers. What do you mean that's racist to say? Remember, if you don't vote for me, you ain't black."

"While I'm at it, I may as well apologize for the whole climate change thing. I made that up just for fun to see if I could get a rise out of Al Gore, just like I did with the whole transgender nonsense. Who would have guessed that people would believe that we can control the weather or that men could have babies? Joke's on me, I guess."

"Well, I can tell that my meds are starting to wear off because I can feel the hair on my legs start to stand up. Anyone want to touch them?"

"Where's Jill... I mean my sister... I mean, you know, the thing?"

"Anyway, I think I was just about to apologize for picking Kamala Harris to be my running mate. C'mon man, who could have imagined that

she would be this incompetent? I mean, I sent her to the border to restore some sort of order, but she got lost. Poor girl headed east when everyone knows that Mexico is north. I mean west. I mean, oh you know, the thing."

"No malarkey, I'm really sorry for picking her but Barack told me I had to... or no ice cream cones for me. He even threatened to put the training wheels back on my bicycle, not that that would be a bad idea."

"Now, where were we again?"

"Oh, that's right, I was about to say I'm sorry for moving America from energy independence to energy dependence. How was I to know that we needed oil to make gas? As for buying more oil from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, well, that's just the neighborly thing to do. So what if it doubles the price at the gas pump and makes us dependent on unstable countries that hate us? Get over it, will ya?"

"Speaking of countries that hate us, how about the masterful job I did with our withdraw from Afghanistan? Wasn't that something? By leaving all those planes

and other military equipment behind, we didn't have to pay the shipping costs. C'mon man, how was I to know that the Taliban would use those weapons against our troops? I just asked myself, 'What would Barack do?' and then I did it."

"In closing, let me say that the thing I am most sorry for is inflation. I just figured it was time that rich people started paying their fair share, so I increased prices for everyone. That'll teach them, right? The rest of you middle class Americans are just collateral damage."

"It's almost nappy time now, so I've got to go or Jill will be mad at me. Have you ever seen her temper? Gotta stay on her good side, if you know what I mean. No joke. I'm not kidding. That's not hyperbole. She's more dangerous than my buddy Corn Hole."

"Zzzzzzz."

## ***The Wasteland Called Welfare***

I remember it as though it were yesterday...

It was the summer of 2008, and I was running for the U.S. House of Representatives in New Jersey's 1st Congressional District. Having won the Republican primary as a political neophyte, I had decided to launch my general election campaign with a walking tour of Camden.

In case you aren't from South Jersey or aren't familiar with Camden, it is routinely included on the short-list of the poorest and most dangerous cities in America. It is also where my father grew up in the Cramer Hill section of town and my mother, in a neighborhood called Fairview.

Not only that, but the first house that Deanna and I owned was on 48th Street in Pennsauken, just 12 blocks from the Camden border.

Posing for a prayer and a brief photo op in front of the small brick rowhouse at 1308 S. Merrimac Road where my mother was raised and my grandfather died, I walked across the street and knocked on the screen door of a house whose wooden door was already open. After a few seconds, a black woman answered, and I started my rehearsed campaign introduction.

"Hi, my name is Dale Glading, and I am running for Congress," I began. "I wanted to know if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to share with me."

"Yes, I do," the woman responded matter-of-factly. "I want to know

why the Hispanics are getting in line ahead of us? We used to be at the front of the line." Seriously, she said those exact words, which have been indelibly etched in my mind ever since.

Obviously, this woman was referring to welfare benefits and other social programs designed to assist the poor and needy. She then doubled down on her original comment.

"And what are you going to do to make sure that welfare is there for my children and my grandchildren?" she continued.

Thankfully, it was summer, and my face was well-tanned from days of campaigning in the hot sun. Otherwise, she may have noticed the color drain from my face as I realized that this woman had no aspirations for herself - and the next two generations of her family - than to continue receiving government handouts.

I acknowledged her questions, said that I believed in equal opportunities for all Americans, and thanked her for her time before moving on to the next house. However, what I really wanted to say was, "Don't you want to stand on your own two feet and provide for your own family instead of being permanently dependent on Uncle Sam?"

As Ronald Reagan once said, "Welfare's purpose should be to eliminate, as far as possible, the need for its own existence." I couldn't agree more.

In fact, were I in Congress today, I would introduce legislation that would limit individuals to two years of welfare benefits over the course of their lifetime. Families with

young children would qualify for up to five years of benefits before maxing out.

After all, welfare is more formally known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families... with the key word being "temporary," meaning short-lived and not permanent. There are also six other public assistance programs - such as SNAP, WIC, and CHIP - that the federal and state governments provide with few, if any, timelines or automatic termination dates.

Offering a temporary "hand up" is compassionate. Providing a permanent "handout" is cruel and counterproductive. It is the modern-day equivalent of slavery, creating a dependent underclass that is robbed of hope, initiative, and a better future.

Welfare without an expiration date is also monumentally unfair to those hardworking Americans whose taxes fund the program. As the Apostle Paul stated in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."

Please notice that Paul says, "will not," not "cannot." In other words, erecting a social safety net for those people who - due to illness or handicap - are unable to work is both compassionate and biblical. However, for those able-bodied people who willingly choose not to work, preferring instead to endlessly suck on Uncle Sam's teat, it is time to wean them from their unhealthy and unholy government dependence.

## Reagan's Secret for Success

Even the most liberal of historians would have to admit that Ronald Reagan was one of our most effective presidents. Inheriting a nation, an economy, and a military in decline from Jimmy Carter, Mr. Reagan turned things around in a hurry. A sense of malaise gave way to a spirit of optimism and patriotism and, after four years of record inflation under his predecessor, we experienced a record economic boom. America's military was also rebuilt, leading to the decline and eventual demise of the Soviet Union.

It is true that President Reagan's acting career served him well as Governor of California and President of the United States. There is a reason why he was known as the "Great Communicator." Mr. Reagan's Irish wit and self-deprecating humor also won him far more friends than enemies.

However, if I had to choose one attribute that was the absolute key to Ronald Reagan's political and personal success, it would be this: he kept things simple.

Mr. Reagan was no dumb bunny, no matter how the liberal media tried to portray him. On the contrary, his ability to focus on a few key priorities and then to communicate them clearly in order to create a consensus is what made his eight years in office so effective.

The United States is good. The Soviet Union - and Communism in general - is bad. Get it? Well, America did... and so did the rest of the world. As a result, just two years after Reagan stood before

the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and demanded, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" it came tumbling down.

President Reagan painted in "bold, unmistakable colors with no pale pastels," the very words he used in his mesmerizing and extemporaneous speech at the Republican National Convention in 1976 as he conceded the nomination to incumbent Gerald Ford. Today, the GOP would be extremely well served to do the same by drawing sharp distinctions between it and the Democrat Party, which is increasingly controlled by its Progressive wing.

Here is how the Gipper articulated the basic difference between America's two main political parties...

"Republicans believe that every day is the Fourth of July, but the Democrats believe every day is April 15th."

And there you have it, folks. Republicans stand for personal freedom and lower taxes, while Democrats advocate for more government control and higher taxes. If we, the party of liberty and fiscal responsibility, get back to basics, we will win this November and for many Novembers to come. However, if we simply become the "Democrat light" party, we will go down to defeat... and deservedly so.

The choice is ours, my fellow Republicans. Choose well by following in the simple but illustrious footsteps of our greatest president since Abraham Lincoln.

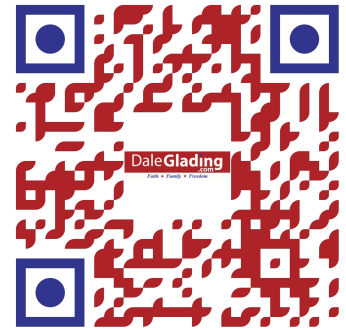
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