

The impeachment of King Lear: Shakespeare would have been in love with Donald Trump

By Charles Hurt - *The Washington Times* - Monday, January 11, 2021

OPINION:

As this epic adventure of Donald J. Trump's presidency winds to a spectacular close, I am reminded as I have been so many times over the past five years just how inadequate we sad scribes in the political press have

been at capturing it all — this, the Greatest Political Show Earth has ever seen.

It was once said of newspaperman H.L. Mencken — the so-called “Sage of Baltimore” — that in his political reporting, he “never giggled, seldom even chuckled; he roared with laughter.”

The rotund and orotund A.J. Liebling wrote about boxing, eating, war and the zany scam artists of Times Square during the 1930s. Perhaps his greatest work, however, was his political tome, “The Earl of Louisiana,” about that state’s “half crazy and half intelligent” Gov. Earl Long.

Though Liebling certainly would not have sympathized much with the current MAGA political forces, his love for the dramatic, his eye for characters and his devotion to scalding honesty burned away any underbrush of pique, personal animus or political bias.

A.J. Liebling would have feasted on Donald John Trump.

H.L. Mencken would have lighted a cigar and wept tears of joy over the endless supply of material to fuel the trenchant wit that clacked through his overheated typewriter.

Yet even such titans as Liebling and Mencken would not have been able to fully capture the enormity of this political epic through which we are now living. Only the greatest reporter in the history of the English language — William Shakespeare himself — might have been equipped to fully appreciate and record the tragedy, the comedy, the history of Mr. Trump's brief foray into politics.

Truly, Shakespeare would have been in love. He might have penned another 154 sonnets to convey his infatuation and fascination.

An original character of Mr. Trump's size would have starred in everything from "The Merchant of Venice" to "King Lear."

Mr. Trump would have eclipsed the role of wealthy bastard Don John in “Much Ado About Nothing,” who describes himself as a “plain-dealing villain.”

Try as they did, Mr. Trump’s most unhinged critics failed to capture Shakespeare’s descriptions of Richard III as “rudely stamped,” “deformed” and “unfinish’d, sent before my time into this breathing world” — so hideous that dogs stop to snarl at him.

This, of course, is not a remotely accurate description of Mr. Trump, but it’s what his critics were going for — even if they are too stupid and dull to realize it.

In Venice, Mr. Trump could have taught Shylock a thing or two about a righteous victim’s unquenchable bitterness. Channelling Mr. Trump in Elizabethan language, you can almost hear him seethe: “If it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge.”

Yet no Falstaff ever on the Globe stage played to more roars of laughter from the unruly crowd gathered on the lawn below. Nobody peddles the vulgar and ribald better than Don from Queens.

“He referred to my hands. If they’re small, something else must be small.”

Mr. Trump punctures the air with his fingers and gives a sideways glance to the crowd. They are heaving with laughter. He looks back at the little, sweating robot on stage beside him.

“I guarantee you there’s no problem. I guarantee you.”

Though there is plenty that is rotten in Washington, Shakespeare might have struggled to cast the great Don John in "Hamlet." Dithering and obsessive self-reflection are not exactly his forte.

But King Lear. Oh, King Lear.

He gave away his fortune and his kingdom to his two daughters who, on command, sang his highest praises most enthusiastically.

Yet it was Cordelia who was true to him. "Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave my heart into my mouth," she says, frankly.

She got nothing.

In the cruel end, the king's daughters turn on one another with poison and suicide. Cordelia is executed in prison. Lear dies alone, in dark grief and resentment.

He exuents, leaving his kingdom in the hands of the Earl of Kent, a very old man.

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The unyielding independence of L. Douglas Wilder

America's first elected black governor all but endorses Republican Glenn Youngkin

By Charles Hurt - *The Washington Times* - Thursday, October 28, 2021

OPINION:

Former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder answers to no one. He has always been truly independent, which makes him a problem inside the Democratic Party.

Long before Barack Obama was spinning fairy tales about “hope” and “change,” Mr. Wilder was making history.

The grandson of slaves, Mr. Wilder, became the first African American elected governor in the United States.

He ran on typical Democrat issues of the day in what was then a solidly Republican state yet governed as a pragmatist. His fidelity to the constitution never wavered. And he never surrendered his independence.

Again, therein lies the problem with Doug Wilder for the Democratic Party. Democrats cannot tolerate people like Doug Wilder being independent and thinking for themselves.

So, perhaps, it did not come as the biggest surprise back in the summer when Mr. Wilder turned his stiletto of independence on Democrats' retreat nominee for governor, Terry McAuliffe.

Why Mr. Wilder wondered, did Mr. McAuliffe insist upon violating "Virginia's long-standing precedent" by seeking a second term as Virginia governor?

But even more uncomfortable for Virginia Democrats were Mr. Wilder's comments in July dredging up the party's horrifying and widespread scandal involving top white Democrat politicians dressing up in "blackface."

Sitting Democrat Gov. Ralph Northam acknowledged wearing "blackface" after his college yearbook page surfaced, showing him either in blackface or wearing a Ku Klux Klan hood. Either way, it appeared at the time that the Democrat's political career was over.

Among the first bloodthirsty pols on the scene was sitting Democrat Attorney General Mark Herring, who was second in line to succeed the governor if Mr. Northam resigned. Mr. Herring demanded that Mr. Northam resign for wearing blackface.

Just days later, however, Mr. Herring admitted that he, too, had worn blackface.

“This was a one-time occurrence, and I accept full responsibility for my conduct,” the Democrat said after his own shocking admission. Mr. Herring did not, however, “accept full responsibility” by resigning his post. Astonishingly, Mr. Herring is presently running for reelection.

Also, calling for the resignation of Mr. Northam and Mr. Herring at the time when the scandal was burning hottest was none other than Mr. McAuliffe himself.

But Mr. McAuliffe has had a dramatic change of heart now that he is shimmying back up that greasy pole to the governor’s mansion. Today, Mr. McAuliffe wants Mr. “blackface” Northam’s support. And he is running alongside Mr. “blackface” Herring!

“You called on Ralph Northam to resign,” Mr. Wilder fumed to radio host Jeff Katz.

“Now, he didn’t resign. Why do you now seek his support and sought his support for your candidacy?”

Mr. Wilder’s distaste for his party’s retread nominee goes well beyond hypocrisy and blackface. Just last week, Mr. Wilder blew up Mr. McAuliffe, Mr. Northam and the rest of Virginia Democrat leaders over their long-standing refusal to fully fund the state’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Even worse for Virginia Democrats, Mr. Wilder applauded the platform of Glenn Youngkin, the Republican running against Mr. McAuliffe.

“When I watched Glenn Youngkin last evening commit to providing funding for all five of our HBCUs in any budget he submitted to the legislature if he were governor, it was historical,” Mr. Wilder said. “This is the first time any candidate for governor has made this public commitment.”

Even more pointed, Mr. Wilder noted that Democrats in Virginia cannot win “without massive support from the Black community.”

However, he said, “their needs continue to be ignored by those who purport to represent them.”

Brutal.

“The people are not stupid,” Mr. Wilder warned Democrats.

“Maybe Northam and McAuliffe will tell us why they have not supported our HBCUs,” he taunted. “Stay tuned.”

Indeed, stay tuned.

Election Day in Virginia is next Tuesday.

• *Charles Hurt is the opinion editor at the Washington Times.*

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Dust Bowl Democrats

What to do with seething political 'refugees' fleeing for sunny freedom of Florida?

By Charles Hurt - *The Washington Times* - Thursday, December 30, 2021

OPINION:

“So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.” Book of Revelations 14:19

Once again, political bad girl Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Georgia Republican, proves herself the smartest person in Congress.

OK, that sounds pretty backhanded. But it is meant as an actual compliment. It's not her fault how dumb everybody else in Washington is. Not any more than it was former President Donald Trump's fault.

Speaking of Mr. Trump, Mrs. Greene is the present version of him circa 2015.

Ridicule, vilify and dismiss her. Whatever you do, just do NOT take her seriously!

But just like Mr. Trump in 2015, Mrs. Greene is the only person speaking honestly about important things these days that matter to actual voters. So, ignore her at your own peril!

Her latest Twitter imbroglio exploded when she suggested that so-called “red” states should file for a national “divorce” from so-called “blue” states. There are many reasons why this is a terrible idea, but she puts her finger on a vitally important issue.

In real-time, we are watching a mass exodus of people fleeing murderous, high-tax, left-wing states run by Democrats for free, open low-tax states run by Republicans.

On the face of it, this seems like a good thing. It is the miracle of federalism. Citizens are voting with their feet to leave the failed American experiments in favor of the successful American experiments. Hopefully, over time, this process eliminates the failures and spreads the successes, thus making America great again.

And before you dismiss these concerns as some kind of right-wing crank issue, consider this. These people who are moving from New York and California to Texas and Florida are not conservative nut jobs who wear Ted Cruz Underoos. These are self-professed “woke” liberals who are so

appalled at the state of their own failed political experiments that they are fleeing into the waiting arms of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, evil conservative Republican.

Stop and think about that. How bad would things have to be for you to pick up and leave everything behind to move your family to another state, run by people you have always despised as dangerous, immoral heathens?

This is not just some passing fad or flight of fancy. These are vast, life-altering decisions made by desperate people.

The Democrat politicians they are running from today are the Dust Bowl of the 21st century. This is a modern-day, man-made "Grapes of Wrath." Only the rich are escaping, and the poor are left in their wakes of wretched misery.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Democrat, has turned the verdant plains of plenty into parched desert sands sprinkled with rusty hypodermic needles and colonized with foul tent cities. When the sickle comes for her, will the angel find her living in Florida?

But here is the problem. The very "refugees" who are now fleeing are the same ones who put Nancy Pelosi in charge in the first place.

Now, just as the ghettos and carnage and concentration camps are being discovered, these people are shaving their short mustaches and fleeing to South America with all the looted gold teeth they could carry in their pockets.

They are political refugees fleeing tyrannical injustices of their own making.

This is no small matter. What responsibility do these people have to live with the horrible, real decisions they have made for decades? What about all those poor people they left behind who cannot afford to escape to the sunny beaches of Florida and Texas?

What about all the tax bills they racked up back in California?

These are the same vile people who thought it was okay to dine and dash when they were in college and low on cash. They are the same people who think it's funny to get drunk, hire a cab and then ditch the fare at a stoplight three blocks from their home.

They are the vile trash who collect cute little puppies — only to later abandon them at a dumpster beside the highway when the dogs grow up.

They are the Ghislaine Maxwells of the political rapists they enabled for decades back in San Francisco and New York.

Even the wrath of God is not terrible enough for these political arsonists.

The wise American political philosopher Pedro L. Gonzalez, editor of Chronicles Magazine, has an idea. Force these freedom thieves to register as poll offenders. Make them carry papers. Levy against them a "sin" tax until they prove themselves worthy of suckling at the teat of Red State freedom.

Not reeducation camps exactly. More like political parole.

As with everything from Mr. Gonzalez, it's a brilliant idea.

Maybe it doesn't work, but that is the beauty of federalism. Give it a try. If it works, keep doing it. If it fails, stop.

And in the meantime, if people don't like it, they can always move back to California, where an angel with a sickle awaits them.

- *Charles Hurt is the opinion editor at The Washington Times.*

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