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## Command performances at America's theater of nonsense

Steve Bakke  May 24, 2022



***William Shakespeare mirrored my forlorn attitude with something he wrote several hundred years ago: "All the worlds a stage; and all the men and women merely players" (1603).*** Here are some nonsensical recent performances.

***Abortion supporters are making a claim that puzzles me.*** They argue that the leaked SCOTUS draft decision is evidence of our democracy's decline. That makes no sense. The draft opinion states that abortion policy should be made by legislatures, not in court. There's bipartisan support, including the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, that the Roe decision was tenuous in its construction. Many agree that the courts aren't the place for creating new law, which happened with Roe. Let the people decide through their legislatures, not a handful of judges. What could be more democratic than that?

***The release of the draft abortion decision brought claims that recently seated Supreme Court justices lied during confirmation hearings.*** They're accused of not respecting the doctrine of "stare decisis," the principle of using precedent to decide cases. That begs a question: should nominees be expected to guarantee how they'll vote on controversial issues?

***I'll quote Justice Neal Gorsuch to demonstrate the type of careful, nuanced responses nominees from both parties are often forced into.*** In 2017, when asked about respecting abortion rulings as precedence he stated: Roe is a "precedent of the U.S. Supreme Court, worthy of treatment as precedent like any other," having been "reaffirmed many times" it carries "considerable" weight. He added, "there are instances when a court may appropriately overrule precedent after considering a lot of factors."

***My next nonsensical selection is a repeat performance from one of my earlier lists.*** Pipelines were discontinued and the availability of drilling on public land reduced by the current administration. We soon found ourselves in need of help to solve an energy shortage. At the same time, Ukraine and all of Europe needed a new source of fossil fuels to support them during the war with Russia, which continues still.

***We need a wartime energy protocol.*** The President should authorize an “operation warp-speed” for providing oil and gas for the U.S., Ukraine, Europe, and eventually for others who depend on soviet produced fossil fuels. The attitude of the administration toward fossil fuels, in the critical short term, must change for America to properly address several potential existential threats, including the Ukrainian war.

***A new attitude of leadership and cooperation in emergency energy situations would lead to great international goodwill.*** It’s the right and moral thing to do. The administration’s constant scolding of the fossil fuels industry must change to a new enthusiastic partnership between fossil fuel producers and our government.

***Reflect on the law-and-order problems which accelerated after the George Floyd killing.*** Riots and violence quickly evolved from legal protests. Many people were killed and billions of dollars in damage ensued. Foolishly, many progressive state and local governments stood by and let lawlessness happen as if the violence was justified. Somehow, this evolved into a “hands-off” law enforcement reform which has failed miserably.

***Crime is going unpunished in many places and riots continue in others.*** “Catch and release” seems to be the rule in many areas. A recent example was when comedian Dave Chappelle was attacked while on stage. The assailant possessed a lethal “knife-gun,” but soon after the arrest, was released without felony charges. While many loudly proclaim the need to crack down on crime, too many people object. Incredibly, one enthusiastic reformer wrote that “law and order” supporters are pursuing the evil agenda of Adolf Hitler. It’s difficult to comprehend how some people think.

***Border security and immigration control continues to be a huge topic, and one aspect is hardest for me to comprehend.*** We were on the right track before the current administration squandered our progress. Trump had completed 400 miles of border wall with three hundred more miles ordered. But the hustle-and-bustle along the border quieted as workmen scurried away from the unfinished project. President Biden had been sworn in and immediately discontinued the unfinished project, leaving about \$100 million in construction material to rust away.

***Trump wanted a “stop and sort” process, while Biden chose a “whoops, better chase” approach.*** Trump had chosen a common-sense method – a barrier for slowing things down and sorting things out, enhanced by electronic surveillance.

***Given more time and space, there are so many more absurd performances to discuss.*** Perhaps I’ll deal with some of these at another time. To wit: insisting on reasonable election security is a “Jim Crow” type obstacle to voting; influential opinion maker Rolling Stone magazine labeled the Buffalo NY grocery store murderer a “mainstream republican;” and many, many, many more.

***Composer Steven Sondheim was obviously thinking about foolishness in our world when he recommended that it may be time to just “Send In the Clowns” (1973).***