

The tragic comedy of Congress

Now that the Mueller Report has been released and the findings show that neither Donald Trump nor anyone in his campaign 'colluded' with the Russians or took anything of value to win the 2016 Presidential Election, Democrats in Congress are ramping up their impeachment drive. The anger level in WASHDC and in 'Blue' America is palpable and has now gone completely off the charts as the Dems see their chances of removing Trump dwindle, daily.

I've thought quite a bit about this whole, 'We hate Trump' movement and why it is different than the 'We hate Bush' tirades of the early 2000s, and I believe that the explanation is very simple: Donald Trump himself, along with his policies, represent everything, and I mean everything that the Left opposes - not just some things, but everything. The wellspring of the Dems' hate is, of course, due to Trump, the man. He is the opposite of silver-tongued Barack Obama and quite different from the folksy down home patois of the 'Arkansas Traveler' (William Jefferson Clinton). If we were to put all of them into comedians' clothes, Obama would be the cerebral Mort Sahl (for a real laugh watch his explanation of politics from 1967 on YouTube or his performance of 'Live #4 at Berklee-Boston on 2/15/92'). Clinton attempted to be both Will Rogers and Mister Rogers. Trump is definitely a combination of three comedians: Lenny Bruce (for his scatological patter), Jackie Leonard for his seemingly impromptu derogatory comments and Don Rickles for his unabashed insults.

In the past, we made room in our lives for most forms of comedy. We could choose from comedians that made fun of marriage, politics, social trends and everything in between. We had homespun comedians like George Gobel and Cliff Arquette (aka. Charley Weaver). If you wanted 'off the wall' there was Jonathan Winters. Intellectuals had Steve Allen. Most of them kept their humor clean except for Lenny Bruce who never missed an opportunity to push the language envelope. Sure, we have some great comedians today, but our politics have forced the audience into two groups: true believers or true haters. Each side has 'their' comics, and hardly any of those funny men and women can do their acts without profanity. Many Democrat Congressional Representatives are calling for the impeachment of the President.

Why? The simple answer is totally devoid of humor and has nothing to do with comedians...they hate him. Comedians either 'kill' their audience or they 'bomb.' Congressional Representatives don't have to worry about winning over their audiences. They can go totally 'off the reservation' and demand that the duly-elected President of the United States be thrown out of office because they don't agree with him. If Mort were performing today (he's still alive and kicking at 91), he would have a field day with the Dems. He might even build his routine around the ways we Americans can get rid of our Congressional Reps. Here's how we actually do it.

Under Article I, Section 5, clause 2, of the Constitution, a Member of Congress may be removed from office before the normal expiration of his or her constitutional term by an "expulsion" from the Senate (if a Senator) or from the House of Representatives (if a Representative) upon a formal vote on a resolution agreed to by two-thirds of the Members of that body present and voting. While there are no specific grounds for an expulsion expressed in the Constitution, expulsion actions in both the House and the Senate have generally concerned cases of perceived disloyalty to the United States, or the conviction of a criminal statutory offense which involved abuse of one's official position.

I have a list of a few dozen or so Congressional Representatives that I'd like to see expelled from that noble institution, but the reasons may surprise you. It's not their politics; it's their abject narcissism and their unfailing ability to subordinate the country's needs that stick in my craw. Trump has managed to survive the Mueller Report, but now he's entering the Congressional 'no man's land' of possible impeachment proceedings. His future will include running the gauntlet of several Congressional committees and being assaulted on a daily basis by the mainstream media and a couple dozen Democratic Party candidates until November 2020.

If you and I are going to survive, we will need a steady 'fix' of comedy to get us through these next many months. It doesn't matter if your tastes go to current comedians or the older ones, be sure to make time for levity. Laughter is truly the best medicine. It can save your life.

Stephan Helgesen is a former career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in thirty different countries, specializing in export promotion. He is now a political analyst and strategist and author of nine books and over 1,000 articles on politics, the economy and social trends. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com