

America needs a Mulligan

For those of you non-golfers out there, there's a special option afforded to a golfer who hits his tee shot poorly. It's a 'do over' or extra shot and it's called a 'Mulligan.' The U.S. Golfing Association attributes it to a fellow by the name of David Mulligan who frequently played the St. Lambert Country Club's course in Montreal, Canada during the 1920s. One day Mr. Mulligan hit a lousy shot off the tee and wasn't happy with where it landed it so he re-teed the ball and hit again. According to the story, he called this do-over a "correction shot," but his golfing mates dubbed it a "Mulligan."

If only politics gave us the same option to rid ourselves of sub-standard leaders like the one sitting in the Oval Office now. This political Mulligan does exist in parliamentary systems where a vote of no-confidence can effectively topple the existing government and require new elections. In the tiny country of Denmark this is possible if the national budget gets a thumb's down by the elected body known as the 'Folketing.' The most current example, however, is in Sweden where the Swedish government lost its Prime Minister (Stefan Lofven) to a no-confidence vote. It is the first time in Swedish history that a prime minister has been ousted in such a vote and it effectively collapsed the Social Democrats' coalition in that country.

We have an equivalent of the no-confidence vote and it's called the quadrennial Presidential election. It doesn't help us much in the interim, however, and a President can do a lot of harm in four years' time. Our 46th President has already won himself a blue ribbon for single-handedly sowing discord among at least half the country with his abominable decisions on immigration, coercive Covid vaccine mandates, destruction of our energy independence, a failed immigration policy at our southern border, allowing his Justice Department to weaponize the FBI against protesting parents, caving in to the Progressive Left of his party on his 'Build Back Better' social engineering legislature masquerading as an *infrastructure* program and the neutering of our military not to mention his appointment of unqualified but 'diverse' cabinet chiefs.

I guess we need to admire Biden for his single-mindedness and for his dedication to turning a once prosperous country (under the former President) into a mere shadow of itself where divisive politics and phony racism reign unchecked. And now we have another reason to dump Joe...inflation and supply chain problems that will be with us for many a moon. And the answer from his Transportation Secretary who took three months off during the height of the crisis for 'parental leave' is..."lower your expectations." Americans have never responded well to such suggestions. Expectations (which are really grounded in our ability to move up the economic ladder) are part and parcel of the American character. The last President I remember who advocated a severe belt-tightening, a lowering of expectations and who gave us the 'misery index' was Jimmy Carter.

Tell an American he can't go out to eat or go to a ball game unless he's vaccinated or suggest that he ride the bus from his suburban home to save CO₂ emissions or forego the visit to grandma's house for Thanksgiving and he'll probably tell you to go back to whichever Blue state you crawled out of and while you're there lock yourself in a closet and throw away the key. Would that we could tell Joe Biden to do the same and then ask for a Mulligan. We do actually have a way to tell Joe to blow, and it's called the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. Here's what Section 4 says: "Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President."

If this inability is temporary such as it was when President Reagan was in surgery after the assassination attempt on his life, Section 4 continues:

"Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office."

There is a slight problem in trying to remove 'Uncle Joe' and it is called Kamala Harris, the person who would step in to fill Joe's mukluks. For those of us that sit here on the right side of the divan, it is a profoundly frightening thought...President Kamala Harris, the same Kamala Harris that couldn't get 1% of the Democrat vote to become her Party's Presidential candidate. That Kamala Harris or the one who couldn't bring herself to travel to our southern border until six months into the Biden Administration's term. Maybe it's the same Kamala Harris who gushed over space exploration with paid child actors who sat enraptured as she talked down to them as if they were five year olds.

Well, you say, at least we would have the first female President without a vote to complicate things. True, but is gender really that important or should it be a qualification for the most powerful leadership job in the free world? Apparently not, according to the Bidenites. The proof rests with the new Assistant Secretary of Health, Rachel Levine - a biological man who has been living as a female for the last few years. Levine has recently become a four-star Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Yes, he/she is proof that gender doesn't matter anymore. You are free to call yourself anything you want and nobody - not even the President - can do anything about it. My greatest worry, strangely enough, is not a President Kamala Harris; I could probably live with that for a couple years as long as I didn't have to listen to her now signature *cackle*. It's the next person in succession to the VP that scares the !@# \$ out of me.

You guessed it, the Speaker of the House, none other than the inimitable San Fran Nancy Pelosi, that paragon of character and civility and openness. You remember her famous 2017 remarks about Obamacare: "We have to pass the bill," she said, "so that you can find out what is in it — away from the fog of the controversy." What a reassuring President she would be. This whole Biden to Harris to Pelosi scenario makes me want to rethink the Mulligan thing. In fact, it makes me want to give up golf altogether.

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