

Thanks, but no thanks

Last Friday, President Trump declined to attend the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden set for just eleven short days from now, and I, for one, am very relieved. I remember back in 2011 when Donald Trump attended the White House Correspondents' Association dinner and was made the butt of jokes by then President Barack Obama and comedian Seth Meyers. It was painful to watch and to listen, but Trump sat stoically through it all. I give him high marks for doing that. Personally, I would have walked out. Many believe that it is that evening that made Trump decide to run for President, but Trump is quoted as saying, "I had a phenomenal time. I had a great evening."

How could he possibly have had after listening to Obama hold forth and then having to put up with smart aleck Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump has been saying he will run for president as a Republican — which is surprising, since I just assumed he was running as a joke." "Trump owns the Miss USA Pageant, which is great for Republicans, because it will streamline their search for a vice president." and then, "Donald Trump said recently he's got a great relationship with 'the blacks.' Unless the Blacks are a family of white people, I bet he's mistaken."

Can any of us blame Trump for taking a pass at an event that will celebrate the elevation of a swamp creature like Joe Biden to the highest office in the land, a man who never managed anything except perhaps buying a monthly pass on the DC to Wilmington Amtrak train? A man who's bluffed his way to the top by pretending to be for 'the folks' and the little guy while his family scoops up millions from China and Russia, and for wearing the mantle of *the great uniter*? Puhleeze. Then there's that little thing called election fraud. Wouldn't attending a celebration of a tainted victory be just a teensy bit hypocritical?

And the crowd on the stands. Don't get me started. To be in the company of people who have publicly ridiculed him and impeached him and tore up his State of the Union remarks behind his back and then tried to persuade his Vice-President to remove him by using the 25th Amendment? I wouldn't even want to be in the same CITY as San Fran Nan Pelosi let alone a few feet from her and all the while trying to keep a civil look on my face. I doubt that even Mahatma Gandhi or Mister Rogers could have managed THAT.

Okay, I get the fact that it's *traditional* for the outgoing President to be there to give the keys to the country to his successor, but Joe Biden, really? And then to ride to the event in the same car with him! That is just a bridge too far. I'm sorry. Then, to top it all off to be forced to share the stage with two characters like Bill Clinton and Barack Obama? I can't think of a greater punishment than to be in THEIR company. I remember when Clinton was supposed to pay a visit to the Embassy to which I was attached. I told my colleagues that they'd better get ready because I could feel an acute case of disgust coming on and that they couldn't count on me to be in the receiving line. Fortunately, for me, Clinton had someone er, something else to do and had to cancel, letting me off the hook.

Anyway, it's probably better that Joe goes it alone. That way he doesn't have to stand near a man, the hem of whose garment he couldn't touch if it was velcroed to his face. Better not to be part of a side-by-side 'before and after' comparison. It might make it more difficult to convince everybody that they shouldn't suffer from buyer's remorse. Nope. You did the right thing, Mr. Trump. I don't know where you plan on being, but if I were you, at about a half-hour before the swearing in I'd be making a farewell address from the Rose Garden and that way force the media to cover my remarks, squeezing every last drop out of the fake news folks. Then, I'd take the arm of my beautiful fashion model wife and slowly walk to Marine One, give a thumbs' up to the staff and the reporters and climb aboard. Then I'd instruct the pilot to do a fly over of the Inaugural stands and drop about a couple hundred MAGA hats to the crowd below.

There are alternative scenarios of course. For example, Trump could host a big bash at Mar-a-Lago for a few thousand of his closest friends OR he could hold a mega-rally for his supporters that could be televised nationally and worldwide.

One of my favorite alternatives, however, would be to do a version of the Burning Man Festival that's held each year in Nevada, a sort of a 'Zozobra' burning that's celebrated in New Mexico. Any one of those would be preferable to attending the inauguration of Joe Biden, and would, in my opinion, be a fitting end and tribute to a very *untraditional* four-years, courtesy of Donald J. Trump, an act that's almost impossible to follow.

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