

## “Give me an asshole who can play...”

This is a famous quote from iconic drummer, Buddy Rich. Buddy only wanted the best on stage with him. He didn't care about their “moral character” or if they were pleasant to be around. He didn't even care if he, himself, liked them. He hired only guys who could burn the room down with him ...not boy scouts who were mediocre. Hence, the famous quote.

President Donald Trump *appears* to be in trouble. A series of confessions and convictions, of and by people around him, are casting a strange, dark light on his presidency at the moment. There is a perception (at least) that shady stuff has gone on around this guy. And when shady stuff constantly goes on around someone in charge, you have to conclude that the guy in charge is okay with shady stuff.

Has he hung around tax evaders and money launderers? Clearly. Did he pay off porn stars and Playboy Playmates to keep their dalliances quiet? I think we can safely conclude that he did. Is he a petulant child in the Twitter-verse? One hundred percent. Does he say things in public my mother would slap me for saying? Literally, everyday. Did he conspire with a foreign power to win an election? Maybe. Will any of this make a difference to his supporters? That's a complicated answer.

Let me explain ...

I have a theory that all presidential elections are reactions to the sitting president at the time. I'm old enough to remember Jimmy Carter getting elected (in large part) because he was a wholesome, moral breath of fresh air in an atmosphere of corruption and scandal created during the Nixon years. I was only a kid, but I distinctly remember entire churches being excited to go out and vote for an openly Christian man for president. Then, after four years of that disaster, I remember those same people breaking speed limit laws to get to the polls to vote for Reagan as fast as they could.

The conditions that created a “president Trump” kind of started with Bill Clinton, who led to George W Bush ...who led to Barack Obama.

By the time we got to him, Mr Obama was going to be the antidote to incompetence and corruption and war mongering and, yes ...even racism. But a very strange thing happened during Mr Obama's presidency. Racism didn't end. Corruption didn't end. Wars didn't end. And incompetence might've actually gotten worse. My full day of talking to the customer service agent at the newly created healthcare exchange, did NOT leave me confident.

And what was discovered during Mr Obama's 8 years, was that in a free market nation, over-taxing, over-regulating and a leader who constantly berates the business community and supports policies that place more emphasis on celebrating the "diversity" of people groups than on law and order for every individual, and foreign policies that take everything but the nation you've been elected to lead into account, simply doesn't work.

What was also exposed in those 8 years was how feckless and weak Republicans had actually become in their opposition to such things. And with candidates literally talking openly about socialism and nationalizing private institutions, a guy like Trump comes along and promises to re-set the foundation of the nation the way Americans understand it ...and the way they want it. Is he really that much of a surprise?

I talk occasionally about the fourth revolution. And Donald Trump is the leader of it. If you're appalled at the lewd behavior of your president, you're behind. That ship sailed when one was getting blow jobs by an intern half his age, in the Oval Office ...AND NOBODY CARED.

If you wish your president was decent and measured and refused to return fire at his critics, you're behind. We already had that guy and he was called a war criminal, who should be tried at the Hague (Rosie O'Donnell's public announcement) and "retarded" (Chris Rock's word – DEFINITELY not mine), someone who should force his daughters to go to war (Matt Damon's suggestion) a monster who deliberately broke the levies in New Orleans to drown black people (Spike Lee's claim) and on and on and on ... AND NOBODY CARED.

If you wish your president was upstanding and righteous and said all the right things, you're behind. Mitt Romney already ran, AND NOBODY CARED. If you wish your president was a humble and honorable true public servant, without moral blemishes, you're behind. Bob Dole (a man who gave his right hand to his country) and John McCain (a man who gave both arms to his country) already ran, AND NOBODY CARED.

Donald Trump was the last branch to grab before the nation hit the ground. But he has changed the game in some ways. Nobody believes a nice guy can get it done, anymore. We've had nice guys ...and nothing changed.

Cutting taxes and repatriating a trillion dollars was the right thing to do. And it's working. And only a guy who doesn't give crap about what people think of him

could've gotten it done. Moving the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem was the right thing to do. It sends a message to the rest of the middle east and, in turn, creates a stability hard to quantify. Presidents on BOTH sides of the aisle have promised to do it. It should've been done decades ago. But only a guy who doesn't give a crap about what people think of him could've gotten it done.

Taking Kim Jong Un on ...head on ...is looking like it was the right thing to do. But only a guy who doesn't give a crap about what people think of him would've even attempted it.

While Mr Trump's lawyers and campaign people were perp-walking in and out of ivory towers, a teen aged girl in Iowa – as middle-America a place as you can find – was being murdered by someone in the country illegally. That creates real world fear for Americans everywhere. We have enough fear of our own citizenry, breaking our own laws. And reasonable Americans don't think it's unreasonable to ask people wanting to come to our country ...to sign the hell in. They don't see how that makes them racists. It simply doesn't compute. And the only elected leader giving them any cover is the flawed president.

So, did Donald Trump collude and conspire with Russians to win an election? What the media and his opponents (and even a lot of Republicans) STILL don't or can't or won't understand is that it doesn't matter. He didn't have to collude with anybody. He was going to win either way. He had millions of Americans at “build a wall” and “cut your taxes” and especially at, “I don't give a crap what people think.”

Donald Trump may get impeached or arrested or disgraced or unseated or whatever. But what people had better realize is that if he's gone, a large percentage of the population will be looking for something or someone JUST like him ...to replace him. There's too much at stake; too many socialists on the horizon, too many empty suits looking for lifetime political gigs, too many “nice guys” with great smiles and weak spines, to take anymore chances.

We just want an “asshole who can play”. And with the economy roaring and North Korea neutralized and ISIS basically contained and defeated, it appears that despite all the weirdness that surrounds him, he can, indeed, play.