

About Biden's Pledge to Unify the Nation



**LIFE
SCIENCE**
*By Allysia
Finley*

unify."

Saturday's attempted assassination of Donald Trump underlines Mr. Biden's failure on this score. America is more fractured on racial, ideological and cultural lines than it was four years ago. Chaos, discord, violence, recriminations and antisemitism have only increased. Rather than unify the country, Mr. Biden has deepened America's divisions by escalating attacks on Mr. Trump and his supporters with demagoguery, policies and even prosecutions.

Mr. Biden isn't responsible for Saturday's shooting any more than Mr. Trump was for the attack on then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, Paul, on Oct. 28, 2022. Yet days after that assault and before the midterm election, Mr. Biden gave a speech blaming Mr. Trump: "After the assailant entered the home asking, 'Where's Nancy? Where's Nancy?' Those were the very same words used by the mob when they stormed the United

"I sought this office to restore the soul of America," Joe Biden declared in a Nov. 7, 2020, victory speech.

"I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide but to

unify the States Capitol on January 6th." Mr. Trump's "Big Lie" that the 2020 election was stolen "fueled the dangerous rise in political violence and voter intimidation over the past two years," Mr. Biden added.

In speech after speech, the president has derided Mr. Trump, his supporters and even his Supreme Court appointees as threats to democracy. "Not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom and democracy been under assault here at home as they are today," he said in his March State of the Union address.

He was elected to 'be normal and stop the chaos.' At that he has manifestly failed.

Mr. Biden's Justice Department brought charges against Mr. Trump in two federal courts, and when the Supreme Court held that the former president is entitled to immunity for official acts, the president accused the justices of attacking a "wide range of long-established legal principles in our nation, from gutting voting rights and civil rights to taking away a woman's right to choose."

The president implied he wanted Mr. Trump convicted before November: "The Ameri-

can people deserve to have an answer in the courts before the upcoming election. . . . Because of today's decision, that is highly, highly unlikely. It's a terrible disservice to the people of this nation."

Mr. Biden's policymaking has also been aggressive, from electric-vehicle mandates to requiring public schools to let boys who claim to be female use girls' restrooms. Rather than forge compromises with Republicans in Congress, as he promised, Mr. Biden has ruled by regulation and executive order.

It's worth recalling why Mr. Trump won in 2016. Yes, his celebrity increased his cachet, but his main selling points were his pledges to fight for the "forgotten man" and to punch back against progressive bullies. This remains central to his appeal.

Like Mr. Biden, Barack Obama campaigned on unifying a divided nation. His policies and condescension toward the hoi polloi did the opposite. They fueled a cultural foment, which Mr. Trump adeptly exploited. He couldn't have found a better foil than the maladroit Hillary Clinton, who promised at a March 2016 town hall "to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business." It was a rare moment of honesty for the former first lady and doubtless contributed to her losing the election.

Like Mr. Trump after 2020, neither she nor her fellow Democrats accepted defeat. Instead they spent four years seeking to delegitimize Mr. Trump. The vitriol naturally resulted in public fatigue.

Enter Mr. Biden. "Our politics have become so mean, so petty, so negative, so partisan, so angry and so unproductive. Instead of debating our opponents, we demonize them," he lamented in 2019. "Instead of questioning judgment, we question motives. Instead of listening, we shout. Instead of looking for solutions, we look to score political points. No more."

The pandemic, along with a summer of raucous protests, set the stage for Mr. Biden's election. More than anything, Americans wanted calm. Instead, they got runaway inflation, two wars, an out-of-control border, surging crime, antisemitic attacks on college campuses, and now an attempted assassination of a presidential candidate.

Mr. Biden's failure to fulfill his chief campaign pledge, more than inflation or his infirmities, explains his lousy approval rating. After Democrats lost the Virginia governorship in 2021, Democratic Rep. Abigail Spanberger said of Mr. Biden: "Nobody elected him to be FDR. They elected him to be normal and stop the chaos." If only.