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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser." Vince Lombardi

A TRUE BELIEVER

President Trump, a true believer in Lombardi's statement, just doesn't want to throw in the towel, notwithstanding the vote of the Electoral College earlier this week. It really doesn't appear there are any viable avenues still open to protest the election's results, in addition to which the Attorney General has opined that there are not enough indications of fraud in the election to have created any change in the overall vote.

The president has used the term, "Loser" about people he didn't like many times over the past four years and he obviously doesn't want that term applied to him. His supporters agree with

him, as 52% of Republicans believe Trump actually won the election; that would be 52% of 74,000,000 people or 38.5 million people. Mind you, those are the people who believe he WON the election while 77% of Republicans believe there were disqualifying irregularities in how the election was handled.

How much these opinions were informed by president Trump's own statements and those of his top lieutenants is hard to quantify, but certainly a big factor. Net, net, it is what it is and therefore not hard to understand why the president is like a dog with a bone. He doesn't want to let his supporters down and, of perhaps greater import, he can't bring himself to admit he has lost.

HISTORY AS PRECEDENT

As mentioned a few issues back, not all outgoing presidents have attended the inauguration of the new president. The most prominent case being the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson. John Adams was furious at not having been reelected and his fury was directed at Jefferson. Inauguration day found

Adams leaving Washington for Massachusetts in his horse drawn wagon at 4 in the morning. Interestingly, at a later time, due to the encouragement of Abigail Adams, the two men commenced writing one another and their letters are evidence of the great respect they had for each other. These two who had done so much to put the country together both died the same day – July fourth, 1826, fifty years after signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Adams and Jefferson, given their common purpose and a good number of years left to them after the White House, were able to rekindle an old friendship. Messrs Trump and Biden share no common bonds and at 74 and 78 years of age, the London bookies place very long odds on there ever being rapprochement.

Instead of looking forward to a somewhat unifying moment by having both men at the inauguration, a number of pundits are predicting, not only a boycott by president Trump, but a final, "stick in your eye" action.

Take in this unseemly prediction: as the inauguration procession is in progress,

outgoing president Trump with family make three circuits of the procession in the presidential helicopter before taking a final flight on Air Force One to Palm Beach airport where, at the same time Joe Biden is being sworn in as the 46th president, former president Trump holds a rally for tens of thousands of his followers, bemoaning the, "rigged" election and kicking of his campaign for the presidency in 2024. For all of us, let's just hope that's all too phantasmagorical.

NEWSPAPERS FOR YOU MR. PRESIDENT

Above and beyond his daily intel briefings, president Biden will obviously want to keep up with the news. He's been given a four year free subscription to the NY Post to ensure he gets to see the world through eyes other than the rose colored glasses of the NY Times and Washington Post.

He will have been so busy the six weeks prior to taking office, in checking off his senior appointments lists – needs blacks, latinos, LGBTetc, women, Asian-Americans, indigenous Americans, progressives and a, one off, older white guy, among others. Because of all that he will have had no time to respond to reporters about Hunter Biden's activities, other than to repeatedly say, "I love my son."

Well actually, for the longest time he has consistently said he never discussed his son's business activities with him. So there he was, back when he was still vice president, flying off to China on Air Force Two with Hunter at his side. Since we are informed he never discussed Hunter's business dealings, may we conjecture how some of the dialogue might have gone on their nineteen hour flight: (Joe to son:) "Well son, you must be pretty excited to be going to China." (son to Joe),"Sure am Dad, and really appreciate the RT freebie on AF2, but you know, since I'm not on official U.S. business, shouldn't I be paying just a little something?" (Joe), "Nah, that's ok son. It's kind of a perk. They don't pay a VP much." (Son), "But, I feel guilty about my carbon footprint." (Joe), "Hunter, for Christ's sake, get over it. That's for the press and the tree huggers." (Son), "OK, Dad, but inasmuch as we're starting in Beijing and being my first trip and all - any suggestions? (Joe), "You bet, Son. You gotta see

the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven and, obviously, The Great Wall of China. Hey, and you know what, I'm sure I can get you a priority pass to visit Mao's tomb. There he lies like a peasant, er, pheasant under glass. Usually requires a two- hour wait to get in. Never really understood why – guy's got terrible teeth." (Son), "Wow, Dad you're just the best. You know, in my readings prior to the trip I learned that they have just opened a museum on the history of the Chinese Opium Trade- think I'll try to do that, and they're giving away free samples." (Joe), "C'mon, man!!" (Son), "Just joshing, Pops."

And, so our newly anointed president would have us believe that no words more complicated than those above ever passed between them, neither on that flight, nor on any other occasion.

Actually, things could get quite toasty for the new president. His verbal statements notwithstanding, both the liberal and conservative press corps are going to have to come to grips that this is not just an investigation into potential misdeeds by

Hunter Biden. Unless proven false, the paper trail left by Hunter's lap-top and the testimony of Tony Bobulinski would have you believe the new president has been very much involved in Hunter's compromising business dealings with China and other countries as well.

I won't attempt to take the reader through the long paper trail. It's all readily available with a little research. Bottom line, this is not just a sad story about the problems of a wayward son. It is much more serious than that, with a hundred more bits of data than the specious Democrat paid for "Steele Dossier" which sent the Liberals on a four year wild goose chase to nail president Trump.

WINE NOT

Rudy Kurniawan will soon be heading home to Indonesia, but what a disappointment for those who love a good story about a very clever man and his midas touch in the esoteric world of high end wine.

In the 2000s Rudy was, "a free-spending star of the haute wine world- chartering private jets. Dining out, he didn't hesitate to round up his tips to the nearest thousand." So, how did he come to be so successful? In 1999 at a family dinner in San Francisco, he ordered an expensive (\$300) bottle of Opus one and from that single bottle he became hooked. Rudy had "perfect taste". He could remember any wine he had had. He parlayed that into an international reputation of being able to obtain and auction rare wines. In 2006, \$35 million of Rudy's wines were auctioned. As rare auctioned wines became harder to find, Rudy discovered two other talents, those of mixologist and forger, and boy was he goodforging old labels, mixing old commercial grade wine from Europe with American wine. The wine snobs loved these wines, even the wine critics. But, oops, in 2006 he got caught on a mislabeling. Convicted of wine fraud, he got put away for a couple of years. But, now, out on the streets, albeit in Indonesia, he plans to keep making these tasty wines that fooled the experts, but telling the buyers he is the real producer. Veritas!!

Your faithful scribe, PB