

## Our Civic Duty

10-21-16

SHE: Let's cast gender aside – Agreed?

HE: Agreed – And I am very pleased you initiated the settlement of that issue.

SHE: Then you must also agree that he is the most disgusting of the two.

HE: I don't think *disgusting* is an appropriate term to be applied to a person who may be the next President of the United States. I'd prefer something like *repulsive*.

SHE: Okay, then, *repulsive*.

HE: Then I don't agree. They are both equally repulsive – though I do agree that he is more *disgusting*.

SHE: We'll get nowhere if you keep splitting hairs.

HE: We're trying to decide if we will vote for either of the two contenders – For or Against. *Repulsion* is a term that best suits our decision. Disgusting is too vague – like an otherwise good candidate might have a chronic disgusting habit, like blowing his nose with his fingers.

SHE: Only a man would do that!

HE: I seem to recall –

SHE: That doesn't count! We were camping and that fly –

HE: Let's forget it – my disgust was for only a fleeting moment.

SHE: He is a racist – calling the railroaded Central Park Five guilty even though the actual perpetrator was arrested and confessed.

HE: She popularized the notion of a Super Predator that helped her husband get his retrograde crime bill passed in 1994, and that was aimed at making it easier to jail more black men.

SHE: He is a racist xenophobe promising to kick out all 'illegals' and seal off the border.

HE: She served in an administration that not only expelled more undocumented than the previous Republican administration but also did much more of that border sealing than Bush.

SHE: Let's say both are racist xenophobes, he in his proposals and she in practice. But he is a crook. He pockets profits instead of paying creditors, then profits again through tax breaks.

HE: And she is a bribe taker – selling her *professional expertise* – that is her insider influence to those like Goldman Sachs that crave it. Let's say they are both crooks in terms of a concept based on natural rights that has been rendered invalid under capitalism.

SHE: Yes.

HE: But she is a war criminal having maintained ongoing crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, participated in the new one in Syria, and was on the ground in her very own Libyan adventure where she danced and laughed during the disembowelment of Gaddafi.

SHE: And since he has not said he would immediately cease the criminal ventures, he would be a war criminal on the day he took office. But I still say this guy is more of a menace – a loose cannon. What about the lesser evil?

HE: Let's imagine that you were compelled to vote in an election in which the two candidates were Hitler and Mussolini – and even knowing in advance what they did. Who would you vote for?

SHE: I'm not voting for Mussolini!

HE: But if Benito were the dominant leader over Adolf, wouldn't millions of lives be saved?

SHE: For the sake of argument – if I absolutely knew it would save so many lives, I would vote for Benito.

HE: Fine. Then let's say you were pressured to vote in a referendum on a ruler, the only choice being Hitler. Without Mussolini you'd vote for Hitler.

SHE: I would not! Even if my life depended on it!

HE: Be honest. You've already accepted a possible vote for Mussolini; a man who committed lesser versions of all of Hitler's crimes. No, you'd do what all good Germans and Italians did and wheedle out of your sacred moral principles, an easy process because they are locked in your mind and not grounded in real world conditions.

SHE: Let's say we only have Hillary Hitler and Donald the Duce to vote for –

HE: Notice the similarity. Donald and Benito – a buffoonish duo who could easily club together for groping parties – while Hitler revered woman and placed

them on a pedestal – only occasionally for shooting and hanging, but certainly no groping.

SHE: What about his niece?

HE: An obvious MI5 plant. A dead giveaway in that golden showers happen to be a favorite British peccadillo.

SHE: Disgusting -- even if only a possibility! They are both disgusting and repulsive people.

HE: And just think -- the most disgusting of all may still get elected thanks to the gushing support of the mainstream for Clinton. It's precisely popular hatred of the mainstream that created and drove Trump and Sanders success.

SHE: What was that last Wikileaks revelation before Ecuador was ordered to lock it up?

HE: Oh, that they've ordered Pat Tillman's assassin out of retirement. Nothing would surprise me.

SHE: We can't just sit back and watch the show. What good is not voting? Our motives remain pure but still stuck in our minds.

HE: We need to come up with something that brings our righteousness into the real world.

SHE: Then it's like the thing in Union Square – *None of the Above* – get the electorate participation rate below a majority and force political changes that make possible real choice.

HE: Yes, a good cause, but not much time for us to do much.

SHE: Some practical morality! *If I can't be out front, then to hell with it!* It's easy to make a large sign: *Stay away from the polls and vote here for None of the Above.* And for a symbol I'll use a photo of one of my variegated tulips – that way the cause may go viral.

HE: Semper Augustus!

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Industrial production fell 1% in September year to year -- the 13th consecutive monthly decline. It's 1.3% less than September 2014

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China reported a 6.7% growth rate, but industrial production has been at or below 6.3% for 17 of the last 19 months. The mainstream financial reporting keep wishfully talking of stabilization when in fact it continues its slow slippage like much of the rest of the major economies.

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Home resales rose 0.6% in September year to year while inventory declined 7% year to year. According to the National Association of Realtors inventory is 10% less than September 2014.

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The ECB decided to keep all stimulus in place. Draghi said that they may set a date for slowly easing down QE purchases at their December meeting.

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Bloomberg is reporting that A&T is close to arranging the purchase of Time Warner for \$86 billion.

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