

Freedom's View

A COMMENTARY ON GOVERNMENT FROM ATOP THE CAPITOL

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"All the other alternative facts you need to know"

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A GUIDE TO THE GOP AT THE IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS

HOUSE IMPEACHMENT OPEN HEARINGS BEGIN – THE TWO WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

November 13, 2019

WASHINGTON, DC ~ *Armed Freedom*



On January 17, 2017, the photos above ran across the top of our very first issue. The headline shouted, "THERE'S A NEW CIRCUS IN TOWN." Back then, we failed to appreciate just what a consistently entertaining, multi-ring, fiasco of fearful folly it would be. Word number one is *CIRCUS*.

Be amazed at how the GOP Representatives balance multiple spinning plates of fanciful interpretation of the facts! Thrill to their aerialists as they engage in sanity-defying leaps of illogic! Be astounded by their magicians and see if you can spot how they do their tricks. HINT: it involves distraction, deception, and diversion of attention. Also, be sure to look for the GOP Clown Car driven by Ohio's Jim Jordan. What *amazing* fun!

Today, on the 1025th day of Donald J. Trump's presidency, we have come full circle. We elected the Ringmaster - and Clown-in-Chief. WYSIWYG. The tone we set in our first issue was, sadly for the republic, spot on. That's

why you'll find a reprint of that first edition included with this one.

In his poem, "Little Gidding," T. S. Eliot wrote: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

With these hearings, we are back at the beginning, but it is not yet clear that many more of our GOP citizens will know the place for the first time.

That is because the GOP members of the House and Senate have been cowed into subservience through their fear of the bully Trump (*below*).



(Cartoon: Victor Juhasz in *Rolling Stone*, 8/12/15)
If those members who, privately, are disgusted by Trump were to organize and then speak out with one voice in challenge to the President, most would likely retain their seats. Instead, they are auditioning for inclusion in the forthcoming book, *The GOP: Profiles in Cowardice*.

That is why we need a second word to guide us through in these hearings. First, some background.

Consider for a moment the fact that words can lose their usefulness through overuse. Overused adjectives can resemble an old car that is driven too fast for too long with no maintenance. It eventually throws a rod. It's fatal. *Kaput*.

Such is the case, in particular, with adjectives that, over the last 1025 days have been used to describe the majority of GOP members of the House and Senate. Through egregious overuse, adjectives such as brownnosing, cowardly, craven, feeble, impotent, ineffectual, gutless, lily-livered, obsequious, parasitic, puerile, pusillanimous, spineless, sycophantic, toadying, and yellow-bellied – to name but a few – are in grave danger of losing all meaning.

Enter the National Strategic Adjective Reserve, (NSAR): a little-known office created during the Obama administration after the GOP slavishly followed Mitch McConnell's efforts to obstruct the executive branch's proper functioning by refusing to bring Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court to the floor for consideration.

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WORDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Overseen by the Library of Congress, the NSAR has this morning issued an order calling for the sequestration of the foregoing adjectives and others like them until their meanings can be restored through what amounts to prolonged bed rest.

Journalists are strongly urged to refrain from using them. As one can easily imagine, this creates a problem for journalists covering the GOP during these hearings.

Aware of this issue, and not wishing to run afoul of the First Amendment, the NSAR has issued *a new adjective*. This finally brings us to the second word you need to remember in order to understand the GOP's role in the impeachment hearings.

The word is *ESQUIVALIENT*.¹

According to the NSAR, this new adjective derives from *esquivalence*, which is defined as **"the willful avoidance of one's official responsibilities; the shirking of duties; an unwillingness to work, especially as part of a group effort."**



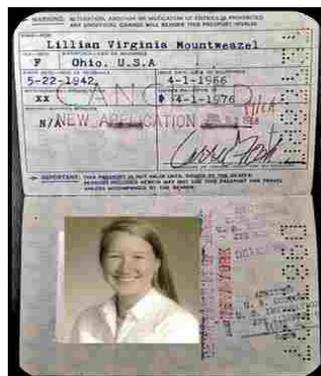
¹ "Esquivalence" is a fictitious word appearing in the *Oxford American Dictionary*, 2nd edition, 2005, Erin McKean, Editor-in-Chief. McKean said she made it up and included it in the *OAD*, in order to catch infringements of their copyright by unscrupulous publishers of other dictionaries. The definition used by the National Strategic Adjective Reserve is that of the *OAD* referenced above.

"From our study of most 21st century GOP members," began Earnest Mountweazel², spokesman for the NSAR, "*esquivalent* is the *sine qua non* of adjectives, for describing the GOP. This is especially so when they continue with their ridiculous assertion that there was no *quid pro quo*."

"Could you use *esquivalence* in a sentence?" inquired a reporter for *The Washington Post*. "Certainly," replied Mountweazel. "Just because the GOP is the most *esquivalent* political party since the 19th century Do Nothing Party, my advice to you is *illegitimati non carborundum!*"³

² "Mountweazel" refers to Lillian Virginia Mountweazel, a fountain designer who became a photographer and gained fame for her collection of photographs of rural American mailboxes titled "Flags Up!" Born in Bangs, Ohio in 1942, Mountweazel died at 31 in an explosion while on assignment for *Combustibles* magazine." The foregoing is completely fictitious and was made up by the editors of the 1975 edition of the *Columbia Encyclopedia* to protect their copyright from plagiarists. If Lillian showed up in another publication, their "Mountweazel" would alert them.

The Web has had a good time with Lillian (as have we.) Her bogus passport is below.



³ From the Latin. "Don't let the bastards grind you down!"

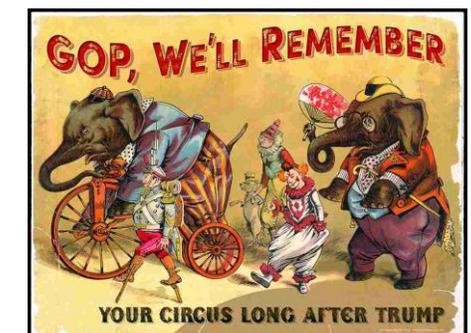
So there you have it: two words to guide your viewing (dis)pleasure as you watch the continuing saga of Trump's Circus with the GOP's *esquivalent* act in the center ring.

To add to your viewing enjoyment, clicking this link will give you iconic circus music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjedLeVGcfE>

If you want a more metaphoric portrayal of the impeachment hearings, may we suggest this equally iconic scene from *The Great Race*, starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, Natalie Wood and Peter Falk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhIH1R1Cbho>



Time to vote these *Esquivalent* Republicans out of office!

~ Armed Freedom

