

A.G. Dumas

**TRUMPISM: The "Smegma Of Our Democracy"  
And Its Losing Battle With The "99-to-1 Rule"**

Trumpism—love it or hate it—has become a functioning part of our democratic process. Its three primary mandates are: (1) lie regularly and shamelessly to achieve your political ends, (2) refuse to do your job (like members of the 115th Republican-led Congress have done) to show your devotion to Trump -- and not to your country, constituency, or conscience, and (3) never cross Trump or your character will be assassinated.

But neatly defining Trumpism isn't as easy as listing what it requires of its practitioners and proponents. After long thought, I've decided to call it "the smegma of our democracy."

A democracy, if you will, is a complex living organism composed of men and women joining together to create the type of society in which they want to live in and perpetuate. And like any living organism, a democracy must procreate to perpetuate. Social intercourse between its members, arguments, consensus, creating laws, campaigns and elections: these are among the lubricants and oils of the democratic procreation process. (While it seems counterintuitive, we should add "shameless lying," "legislative inaction" and "blind allegiance" to the list.)

In human procreation, we know that natural lubricants are necessary to aid "the process." The buildup of these oils during the process, along with dead cells and other waste by-product, is called smegma. And, as we all discover, our private parts must be regularly cleansed of it. Besides its foul odor, smegma, if left uncleansed, can create discomfort and infection.

The same applies to our democracy, analogously speaking. The accumulation of Trumpism (on our democratic organs, if you will) over the past two years is long overdue for a cleansing; its buildup has created a stink so rank that it's causing a wave of tears and revulsion across America. And it has caused a rawness and irritation in the nation's capital that must be cleansed, salved and healed before it creates an institutional infection – or worse.

The end of Trumpism's buildup and foul odor began with the campaigns of prospective congressional members who spoke out to Americans about the need for a cleansing. The salve was the democratic election process in which anti-Trumpism Democrats retook control of the House of Representatives. The healing will begin with the seating of the 116th Congress in January.

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However, to be fair and objective (which are not mandates of Trumpism), we need to turn the coin over.

Trump's take, if he was asked directly, would be that the so-called smegma that we anti-Trumpsters say Washington must be cleansed of is really the stench of our rotting sour grapes from losing the 2016 election. Okay. Fair enough.

And Trumpsters, like Trump himself, believe he has done many won-

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derful things as President, even though the anti-Trumpsters among us maintain that Trump and his ilk are living in some sort of alternate reality. Okay. Differing points of view.

But here's a reality that Trump shouldn't pooh-pooh. He's doing battle with the so-called "99-to-1 Rule," much like Richard Nixon did. The rule is more of a warning -- that even if you do 99 good things, your fate and legacy will be based on the one really bad thing you did. It's a losing battle.

Nixon was warned, but didn't believe it until it was too late. Trump should heed the warning.

That seems virtually impossible for Trump to do. He's blinded by his Machiavellian obsession to be judged on his so-called accomplishments—which he truly believes are historic and unique. Those accomplishments, he reasons, will cause Americans to forgive his penchant for daily lying, his ill-conceived policy-making, any alleged complicity or knowledge of illegal activities performed by his minions during his campaign and after he took office, and his reckless character assassination of those who criticize him. The end, he believes, will justify his means.

Meanwhile, Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation on Team Trump's alleged collaboration with Russian hackers to influence the 2016 election and other illegal activities continues to build steam, and at some point will come to a conclusion. It has already found Trump minions guilty, and more indictments and guilty pleas are anticipated.

Whether Trump himself is found guilty of conspiracy or obstruction of justice is yet to be seen, and it really doesn't matter. In Nixon's case, he resigned the presidency in disgrace before he could be charged with any crime. Why? Because his minions were found guilty, and it was proven that Nixon had prior knowledge of their crimes.

Nixon's once-supporters in Congress told him he would be impeached by the House and found guilty by the Senate – thus ending his presidency. If he resigned on his own, he would receive a pardon from successor Gerald Ford which would preempt any criminal prosecution after he left office.

Trump would be wise to recall that Nixon obsessed that he, too, should be judged for what he accomplished. And as Watergate unfolded over a 26-month period, Nixon's mantra was that it had been a misstep by some overzealous supporters that he knew nothing about. (Sounds familiar, doesn't it?)

But as presidential historian Stephen Ambrose observed: "What Nixon will be remembered for is the nightmare he put the country through in his second term, and for his resignation."

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And let's not overlook that Nixon had a lot more going for him than Trump does.

Nixon won his second term by receiving more than 60% of the popular vote in the 1972 election (beating George McGovern by 18 million votes), and taking the Electoral College by a staggering 520-to-17 margin. By comparison, Trump's 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton was puny. Despite

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losing the popular vote by more than three million, Trump won narrow victories in several key states that garnered him an Electoral College edge, 304 to 227.

Nixon's second term was marked by continued successes in foreign policy that he started in his first term that carried over into his second term. Trump's biggest "accomplishment" thus far is a tax-cut package that will add \$1.2 trillion to the deficit and, after some initial tax relief, will burden the middle class with higher taxes in the years to come. It started losing air as soon as it was passed.

Next, Trump pumped up and ballyhooed that his meeting with North Korean despot Kim Jung Un would be the game-changing accomplishment that would move to the top of the list and rank with all-time great presidential accomplishments. Well, it hasn't turned out that way. In fact, Trump has directed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to halt all North Korean negotiations because they were going "nowhere." Trump, as he is wont to do, blamed someone else for his lack of accomplishment. This time, it was China's Xi Jinping.

As a result, Trump slapped China with billions of dollars in import tariffs, which have ended up hurting many American businesses. However, Trump believes his misbegotten strategies will prove out when all is said and done.

Suffice it to say, Nixon accomplished lots more than Trump. Granted, Trump's only been at the helm for two years. But if Trump is truly as smart as he says he is ("...my I.Q. is one of the highest --and you all know it!"), he would be supremely wise to recall the irony of Nixon's final "the-means-won't-justify-the-end" accomplishment during his losing battle with the "99-to-1 Rule."

On July 3, 1974, Nixon landed in Moscow for a summit meeting with General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, President Nikolai Podgorny and Premier Alexei Kosygin – leaders of the then-USSR. Together, they signed the groundbreaking Threshold Test Ban Treaty, which, at the time, represented the largest degree of cooperation by the world's two major nuclear powers in the effort to control the testing on weapons of mass destruction.

For the first time ever, each party agreed to make available to the other data relating to its nuclear weapons test program. It was probably Nixon's most significant and historic accomplishment during his five years and seven months in office.

But a mere 38 days later, on August 9, 1974, Nixon was forced to resign the presidency in disgrace as the Watergate scandal (the one really bad thing he did) finally caught up with him. A monumental and historic final accomplishment notwithstanding, the "99-to-1 Rule" held sway. It always does.

Meanwhile, the process of cleansing, salving and eventually healing our democracy from the foul odor and ravages of Trumpism continues. It will eventually succeed, and the "99-to-1 Rule" will trump, yet again.