

Reverence

(July 2024)

On July 24th, 2024, the President of the United States addressed the Nation.

Find hereafter a few basic comments on the address (*in italics, paragraph numbering added for clarity*):

The President declared:

1. "I revere this office"

One could suggest that the President meant rather:

"I have been coveting this office all my life, and I am absolutely convinced that I am the most apt at holding it among my 350 million compatriots. The high esteem I have of myself is boundless and my personal ambition is out of proportion."

2. "But I love my country more"

*The alternative being that he loves the office more, and he must love the office to the highest degree indeed, since the risk for a president to be the target of an assassination attempt is **52.2%**, with a lethality of between **8.7%** and **13.0%**.*

(See [A Hero](#))

*On the other hand, quite a number of soldiers have risked their lives allegedly for the Love of Country, but have paid a much lesser price, since **1.1%** of them perished in the First World War, **1.8%** in the Second, and **0.5%** in the Vietnam War, the most lethal conflict being the Civil War with **6.7%**, but then it is hard to see clearly which of the two Half-Countries they Loved more during the horrific fratricidal war.*

*It can be said hence that the Office of President of the United States is between **30%** and **94%** more lethal than that of a foot soldier in the Civil War, the most murderous war in the history of the United States.*

Thus, it would be tempting to think that He Who Covets the Highest Office in the Land loves it considerably more than he cherishes the Country.

3. "I believe [the following] all merit a second term":

3.1 "My record as president"

This President appears to be the most belligerent, most stubborn, least inclined to diplomacy and compromise, most convinced of the righteousness of his cast iron opinions, and the most supportive of a quite avoidable war¹ that has killed in two years ten times as many Slavs as Americans killed in Vietnam in a ten years conflict.

An Unwavering Crusader of the Middle Ages rather than the President of a Modern Democracy.

3.2 "My leadership in the world"

*In case he meant "of" rather than "in", one could reflect that the President was elected to hold the Office of the President of the United States, rather than that of the Ruler of the World, and that if he were it would mean that as many as **96%** of the world population have no say in the selection of their Supreme Ruler.*

3.3 "My vision for America's future"

Only a visionary could have a vision for the future, and no visionary has ever correctly predicted the future. The visionary is he who has visions, sometimes thought of as a Fruitcake, or a Wacko, or even an Unhinged Psychopath.

The future better be left in the future. No thinker has ever been able to predict the state of future machinery, for example, or the future of the planet for that matter. Suffice it to consider the huge, and quite laughable, discrepancies between Science Fiction, even recent, and current realities.

(See [Predicting the Future](#))

¹ Irrespective of who is **RIGHT** and who is **WRONG**, or who is **VIRTUOUS** and who is **EVIL**, which can be seen historically as quite immature concepts, the **RIGHT** and **VIRTUOUS** being **always** us, and the **WRONG** and **EVIL** being **always** the other, whatever the dispute.

4. "But nothing can come in the way of"

4.1 "Saving our democracy".

It is unclear in which way the Democracy is in any real danger, and at any rate the essence of Democracy is to let the more numerous section of the electorate chose for the next four years the next Autocrat who will try to rule over both those who chose Him, and those who rejected Him alike.

4.2 "That includes personal ambition"

Seems to acknowledge indeed an outsized personal ambition.

5. "I ran for president four years ago because I believed and still do that"

5.1 "The soul of America was at stake"

The Healer of the Soul should be the Priest, not an elected official. Has the Office of the President of the United States become that of the High Priest of the United States?

5.2 "The very nature of who we are was at stake"

It seems the pronoun "we", as in "We, the People", would imply the existence of a Unitary Unified Monolithic People, whereas the very nature of the political struggle, of which the President is a main contestant, is based on just the opposite, a population as disunited and fragmented as possible².

5.3 "And that is still the case"

Idem, see 5.2

And to think that the incumbent is the more intellectual of the two contestants!

² Notwithstanding that the very essence of the economy and of society at large is for each individual to endeavor to receive from others as much more than he gives them as possible, in a fashion that is not only tolerated, but also encouraged and even glorified, and represents indeed fragmentation *ad infinitum*.