

= Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson =

" Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson " is the tenth episode of the twenty @-@ third season of the American animated sitcom The Simpsons . In the episode , Bart uploads a video on YouTube in which Homer rants about airlines ' horrible treatment of passengers . It quickly becomes popular and Homer is eventually given his own political cable news show . Homer wins support among average Americans and is chosen by the Republicans to pick their candidate for the next presidential election . He chooses Ted Nugent , but in the end , he realizes that he made the wrong decision and that everything he has said on his show is nonsense , so he admits on television that he is " full of crap "

American musician and conservative political activist Ted Nugent made his second guest appearance on The Simpsons in this episode , which makes fun of his views on hunting and gun ownership . The episode has received generally positive reception from television critics and has been particularly praised for its satire of politics and cable news commentators . During its original broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on January 8 , 2012 , " Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson " was watched by about 5 @.@ 07 million people and received a 2 @.@ 3 Nielsen rating .

= = Plot = =

After a series of demeaning check @-@ in procedures , the Simpsons board an Air Springfield plane for their trip to the wedding of a relative in Montana . The pilot announces that owing to an unforeseen jailbreak the trip will be delayed . He tells the travelers that because the plane is still on the ground , he will turn off the ventilation system . However , all of the ethnic passengers on @-@ board are still allowed to eat their odd @-@ smelling food , and after several hours the rest of the passengers feel sick . The pilot makes another announcement that the plane is going to taxi back to the gate and remain there for an unknown amount of time , and that the passengers cannot get off . When Homer is banned from using the bathroom , his anger boils over and he rants about the airline 's horrible treatment of its passengers . Bart records a video of Homer running amok and then escapes from the plane via the wing . He uploads it on YouTube and it quickly becomes popular .

Homer is invited to speak his mind on a popular cable news show called Head Butt , on which host Nash Castor and commentator Adriatica Vel Johnson argue that he will soon be forgotten . However , Homer makes a convincing rant in which he tells the viewers that unlike television blowhards such as Nash and Adriatica , he speaks for the common man . When the show is over , the cable network executives give Homer his own television show called Gut Check with Homer Simpson , where he provides a mix of populist and conservative ideas . During one episode , he pours " gravy of freedom " over a steak shaped like America , using the gravy as a metaphor for the things that make the country great . He then encourages his viewers to " get on the boat " to protest about the bad things in society , and proceeds to place a gravy boat on his head . This wins Homer a huge base of support among average Americans , and soon the " gravy boat movement " becomes popular throughout the country .

When Homer is chosen by the Republicans to pick their candidate for the next presidential election , his lack of interest in the current candidates leads him to choose Ted Nugent . He invites Nugent for a visit to the Simpsons ' home , where Lisa complains that Homer has made the wrong pick since Nugent is " out of his mind " . Later that day , Homer has a dream in which James Madison shows him how ashamed past American presidents are of Homer . When he wakes up , he tells Lisa he will not be supporting Nugent for president anymore . He then sees a brochure on her dresser with a man posing as a president and offering help with fake dreams . Homer realizes the family faked his dream to convince him not to endorse Nugent . As a result , he angrily decides to go on television and express his support for Nugent . However , when he tries to bring out his ability to cry every time he discusses anything on television , he finds he cannot bring up those emotions because he does not truly believe in what he is saying . Homer announces on television that he " is full of crap " and reconciles with Lisa . As a result , Nugent is stripped of his position as the Republican presidential

candidate . The episode ends as he sings a song about what his presidency would have been like .

= = Production and themes = =

The episode , titled " Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson " , was written by John Frink and directed by Mark Kirkland . American musician and conservative political activist Ted Nugent guest starred in the episode as himself , providing his voice for both speaking and singing parts . His song at the end of the episode is similar to his single " Cat Scratch Fever " . According to Noisecreep 's Kenneth Partridge , the episode makes fun of Nugent 's " blatantly pro @-@ gun , pro @-@ hunting , anti @-@ everything @-@ liberals @-@ hold @-@ dear persona " . The episode features , among other things , Nugent throwing a dead elk onto the dinner table at the Simpsons ' home , as well as using some of Bart 's school friends as arrows for his bow . Nugent had previously made a minor cameo in the season nineteen episode " I Don 't Wanna Know Why the Caged Bird Sings " (2007) . In that episode , his voice is heard in a phone call urging people to vote no on a proposition that would make crossbows illegal in public schools . He comments , " If we outlaw crossbows , who 's gonna protect our children from charging elk ? "

" Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson " satirizes the television industry . It parodies political television shows from cable news channels such as MSNBC , CNN , and Fox News Channel that are similar to Gut Check with Homer Simpson . In an article , Mediaite 's James Crugnale commented that Homer 's personality as he hosts his show is a reference to conservative political commentator Glenn Beck 's " over @-@ the @-@ top persona " , and wrote that " In a spot @-@ on , cheeky parody of Beck , Homer ostentatiously sobs crocodile tears as he laments a high school in Nebraska replacing football with soccer as a team sport . " Adriatica Vel Johnson , the commentator on the political show that Homer first appears on , is a parody of commentator Arianna Huffington .

In addition , the episode satirizes American politics and includes several references to the 2012 Republican Party presidential primaries . For example , when Homer appears on Head Butt , the news ticker features headlines such as " Gingrich looks forward to winning ... his fourth wife " , " Rick Perry mistakenly signs order to execute himself " , and " Satan tweets support for Santorum " . At one point in the episode , the character Ned Flanders comments that he supports Nugent " as long as he isn 't a Mormon " , which is a reference to Mitt Romney . Hayden Childs of The A.V. Club wrote in a review that Homer 's political movement " is clearly a parody of the Tea Party " , noting that " as with the teabags of the teabagger movement , people everywhere are moved to wear gravy boats on their heads [in the episode] . " Childs further mentioned that a follower of Homer holds a sign that references the Occupy movement , which he thought was " a token of the show 's desire to be an equal opportunity offender . "

= = Release = =

The episode originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on January 8 , 2012 . It was watched by approximately 5 @.@ 07 million people during this broadcast , and in the demographic for adults aged 18 ? 49 , it received a 2 @.@ 3 Nielsen rating and a five percent share . The rating was a twenty @-@ three percent decrease from the previous episode , " Holidays of Future Passed " ; however , much of " Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson " faced strong competition from the end of a highly rated National Football League playoffs game on CBS . The episode became the second highest @-@ rated broadcast in Fox 's Animation Domination lineup for the night in terms of both total viewers and adults aged 18 ? 49 , finishing higher than new episodes of American Dad ! and The Cleveland Show but lower than a new Family Guy episode .

Since airing , " Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson " has received generally positive reception from critics . Steve Newton of The Georgia Straight called it " one of the funniest Simpsons I 've seen in a while " , and David Crawford of Radio Times wrote that the satire " may not be subtle , but it is sharp and the jokes come tumbling one after another . " In an article about the episode , Mediaite 's James Crugnale commented that " The Simpsons ' writers have outdone themselves tonight , with this no @-@ holds @-@ barred parody of the over @-@ the @-@ top bloviating

shenanigans of some cable news personalities . " Hayden Childs of The A.V. Club thought it was a " solid episode " that peaked in the middle with the satire of politics . He had mixed feelings about the first part of the episode revolving around airline travel , criticizing the fluctuating quality of the jokes . He wrote that " writer John Frink is able to draw out some moderately amusing gags among a few stinkers . " Childs further criticized Nugent 's guest appearance in the third act , noting that it " falls flat when the show cannot decide how to mock [Nugent] without really offending him , " and the fake dream sequence , which he described as " unfunny and sitcommy " . He concluded that " The Simpsons has done plenty of political satire over the years and still may never improve over season six ? s ' Sideshow Bob Roberts ' . The middle section of this episode had moments that were in the same league , though " . In February 2012 , " Politically Inept , with Homer Simpson " was listed by Matt Zoller Seitz of New York magazine as one of " Nine Latter @-@ Day Simpsons Episodes That Match Up to the Early Classics " .