

Lie-Ability and Other Political Assets

Yes, American elections, with all their accompanying hoopla, are outrageous, irrational, vulgar, hypocritical, and often blatantly dishonest; still, much of the public can find them disappointing. Many people miss out entirely on the color and flavor of politics simply because they lack a basic understanding of the arcane rituals and terminology of politics. Politics, after all, is not political science and cannot be understood in terms of science, or reason. Let me offer some observations on the subject.

Our election process begins, as everyone knows, with the primary campaigns; grueling rituals somewhat akin to Medieval Trial by Ordeal in which political hopefuls batter, buffet, and bully the public into selecting some of their number as entrants in the nominating convention. At the convention, the various political parties parade their ignominees before the public ('ignominee' is frequently shortened simply to "nominee", but its meaning is usually clear in context). The ignominees who have extorted the most votes are acclaimed, with great relief, as the party's candidates.

With only a brief respite, the candidates and public are plunged into the next round of combat – the general election campaign. At the climax of this brutal, but mercifully brief ordeal, the voters are forced to consider the candidates' various assets and elect the one with the greatest **lie-ability**. Thus comes this truism of American politics: "A politician's greatest asset is a lie-ability."

Political lie-abilities are expressed in a variety of ways. One form seen frequently at the highest level of government is the **you-phemism**. A you-phemism is the political equivalent of the common euphemism; the substitution of one word or phrase with another, more pleasant or socially acceptable term. Generally it begins with the substitution of "you" with "we". For instance, when a politician declares, "We are a compassionate people", and really means: "You are going to pay through the nose for all these programs" – that's youphemism.

Another commonly practiced form of political lie is **artificial insinuation**. This controversial, and potentially dangerous practice of implanting words into other people's mouths is not to be confused with artificial insemination. Unlike the latter, which causes full grown cows to have calves, artificial insinuation causes politically immature people to have full grown cows. That can be very damaging to them. Notable examples of the art of artificial insinuation could be seen in the recently aired "budget balancing" episodes where real budget balancing proposals were artificially insinuated by opponents into calls for the mass starvation of children, and for poor granny to be tossed out into the street.

Although there is ample proof that politicians can win elections without the help of real, live voters, most politicians (or at least their consultants) still evince a keen interest in voters. The electorate is constantly polled and quizzed, and their slightest yearnings scientifically analyzed. So pervasive is **yearn-analysis** that it has become as controversial as those political issues it seeks to define. Can the government subject the public to random yearn-analysis? Could the results of yearn-analysis be used to deny jobs or benefits? How secure are the results? And how about the problem of false positives so common with yearn-analysis? A yearn-analysis can test positive for a balanced budget, and yet test negative for cutting any particular program. Even science strikes out when trying to understand American politics. I guess that's why it is so much fun to watch.

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Update:

In light of the attempted coup ongoing in 2017, who knows what the future of American politics will be? Only one thing is certain – it will never be the same.