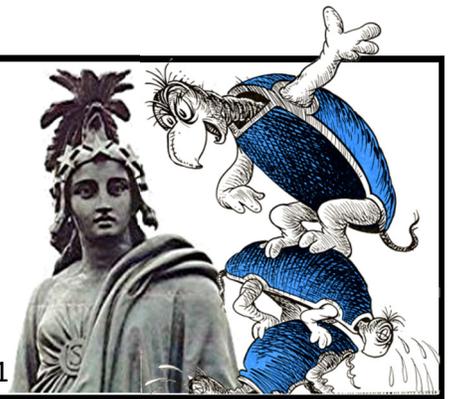


Freedom's View

A Commentary on Government from Atop the Capitol

Vol. 1 "All the other alternative facts you need to know" No. 24 Page 1



McConnell's Dark "Healthcare" Plan

McConnell

(To the tune of "Robin Hood" and using "McConnell" as a 3-syllable word)

McConnell, McConnell, meeting far from lights.

McConnell, McConnell, with his cruel knights.

Feared by the good, loved down in hell:

It's that sonofabitch,

Kentucky's Mitch . . . McConnell.

He called great snollygosters¹ to a meeting in his cave.

Each and every one of them was nothing but a knave.

They'd repeal Obama's health care law erasing everything it'd fixed:

They'd take money from poor old granny,

And give it to the rich!

McConnell, McConnell, meeting far from lights.

McConnell, McConnell, with his cruel knights.

Feared by the good, loved down in hell:

It's that sonofabitch,

Kentucky's Mitch . . .McConnell.

As of now, the Senate version of the House's insane attempt at repealing and replacing Obamacare is scarcely better in the short term: far worse in the long run. It's not even about "healthcare." It's about giving a tax break to the uber-wealthy. Sound familiar? It's a "reverse Robin Hood."

Ever since *The Daily Show's* John Stewart compared GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to a turtle, the internet has had a field day with the idea. Actually, McConnell's personality has little in common with Disney's rather cowardly Toby the Turtle, shown at the right.



McConnell, to his and the nation's detriment, is more like Dr. Seuss' *Yertle*. The turtle in *that* story lets power go to his head: with ruthless consequences for his fellow turtles: particularly those who are at the bottom of the turtle pile, as seen below.



The Red Hot Chili Peppers, cleverly retold Seuss' story in a creatively rhythmmed, funk-rap style. *But, inexplicably, they stopped short of rapping out the story's whole point!*

On a faraway island of Salamond
Yertle the turtle

Was king of the pond.

A nice little pond

It was clean, it was neat;

The water was warm

There was plenty to eat.

Until one day

The king of them all

Decided the kingdom

He ruled was too small.

"I'm a ruler of all that I see

But I don't see enough

And that's the trouble with me.

With this stone for a throne

I am too low down

I cannot look down

Upon the places beyond."

So, Yertle the turtle king

Lifted his hand,

And Yertle the turtle king

Lifted his hand.

He ordered all the turtles

Onto one another's back.

He piled them high

Into a ten-turtle stack.

"I'm Yertle the turtle

The things I now rule

I'm king of a cow

I'm king of a mule."

¹ FreeDictionary.com defines *snollygoster* as "a politician guided by personal advantage rather than by consistent, respectable principles." Our lyrics are created and published with deepest apologies to the original song's author, Carl Sigman. It was the theme of the TV series "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (1955-1960). Find tune at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbyYr6L5xQM

Had Enough? Get a Bit Mad! Do Something Little!

YERTLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Then down from below
In the great turtle stack
Came a burp from a plain
Little turtle named Mack.
Just part of the throne
This burpin' little turtle
Looked up and said "I beg
Your pardon King Yertle.
I've pains in my back
My shoulders and my knees
How long must we stand
Here your majesty?"
"Silence !" the king of the
Turtles barked back
To the bad burpin'
Little turtle named Mack
"I'm Yertle the turtle,
Oh marvelous me, for
I am ruler of all that I see!"
Yertle, Yertle the turtle . . . (fade)
Listen to their version at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wSVt9X9wAM

A fun rendition. But Dr. Seuss's original version tells us *additionally* that the plain little turtle whose name was Mack decided he'd taken enough, got a bit mad, and the plain little thing he did, a burp, "shook the throne of the king!" *That's the point!*

Thus, Seuss concludes his story:
"And Yertle the Turtle, the king of the trees,
The king of the air and the birds and the bees,
The king of a house and a cow and a mule...
Well, that was the end of the Turtle King's rule!
For Yertle, the King of all Sala-ma-Sond,
Fell off his high throne and fell
Plunk! in the pond!"

Which is what McConnell's plotting will *eventually* produce. It might happen sooner if enough "Macks" decide they've taken enough, get a bit mad and do some plain, little things like organizing, calling, writing, and voting. To spark your ire, on Feb. 23, 2010, McConnell told us: "When it comes to solving problems, Americans want us to listen first, and then, if necessary, offer targeted, step-by-step solutions. Above all, they're tired of a process that shuts them out. They're tired of giant bills negotiated in secret, then jammed through on a party-line vote in the middle of the night."

Kerplunk! What a lovely sound!



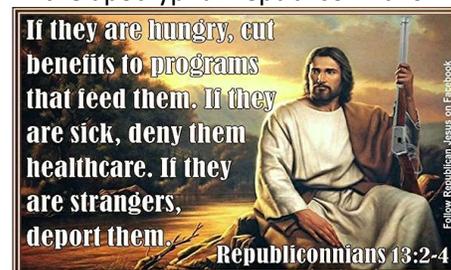
I don't know why *The Red Hot Chili Peppers* omitted Seuss' concluding verse. I do know that Seuss seems to have been no stranger to wise Greek myths such as that of *Icarus*: the lad who flew too close to the sun, causing his wings' wax "glue" to melt so that he fell to his death in the sea.

He was also no doubt acquainted with the classics, such as Brutus' chillingly apt soliloquy in Act 2, Scene 1 of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*:

"Th' abuse of greatness is when it disjoins/ Remorse from power. And, to speak truth of Caesar,/ I have not known when his affections swayed/ More than his reason./ But 'tis a

common proof/ That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,/ Whereto the climber upward turns his face./ But when he once attains the upmost round,/ He then unto the ladder turns his back,/ Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees/ By which he did ascend./ So Caesar may."

Geisel didn't consider himself religious, but his parable-like works have often kindled the theological imagination. *Like Jesus' parables, they reveal unspun, true reality.* Take Jesus' famous parable of the last judgment: God says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." God's listeners wondered when *that* happened. Hence the reply: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."² Of course there's this version in the apocryphal Republiconnians:



That's why we need this final astute observation from the Gospel of John: "And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil."

~ *Armed Freedom* - June 29, 2017

² Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV)

³ John 3:19-21 (NRSV)