

The Delray Democrat

“Why Is Everybody Always Picking on Me?”¹

Michael K. Cantwell

It goes without saying that Donald Trump’s tweets about coups and lowlifes and traitors and foreign conspiracies are just crazy talk. They are projections around which Sigmund Freud could have based a series of conferences and brazen lies beyond even the imagination of George Orwell.

But a broken clock is right twice daily, and Trump is not completely wrong to whine about being “persecuted” for what other presidents got away with. Just not the presidents he’s talking about.

Consider Ronald Reagan, who sold arms to the Iranians and used the proceeds to fund the Contras, in brazen defiance of U.S. law. Or closer to the present, the lies of the Bush administration used to launch a war against a country that had neither attacked us nor posed a threat, a war that cost us trillions of dollars and thousands of lives, not to mention (and of course it is rarely mentioned) the lives of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

Both Reagan and Bush should have been impeached, and both of them – along with Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld – belonged in the dock at The Hague.

Trump’s mistake, of course, is the fact that he is an absolutely repellent creature, a man who debases everything he touches and makes civilized people recoil in disgust. Neither Reagan nor Bush put children in cages or talked about locking up their political rivals or trying them for treason or shooting immigrants in the legs.

Ronald Reagan was a genial snake-oil salesman, and George W. Bush was more fun to have a beer with than Al Gore, at least according to the corporate media.

But the fact that these criminals did not get what they deserved should not deter us from pressing to see Mr. Trump frog-marched out of the Oval Office.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, October 2019, p. 2.