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Even in a Lineup of the Loathsome, Rick Scott Stands Out¹

Michael K. Cantwell

It is difficult to stand out in the pack of grifters, miscreants, toadies, vermin, traitors, and cowards that comprise the modern Republican Party, but Rick Scott manages to get noticed. Just last week, he tweeted:

After the disastrous events in Afghanistan, we must confront a serious question: Is Joe Biden capable of discharging the duties of his office or has time come to exercise the provisions of the 25th Amendment.

The claim's absurdity is heightened by its source, a lackey of the former Imbecile-in-Chief who proposed ingesting or injecting household cleaners as a way to combat the pandemic he'd allowed to run wild. America lost 3.3 million jobs and 400,000 lives during Trump's ruinous presidency. His inability to discharge the basic duties of his office brings to mind Sybil Fawlty's classic smackdown:

I have seen more intelligent creatures than you lying on their backs at the bottom of ponds! I've seen better organized creatures than you running around farmyards with their heads cut off!

That was Trump. This is Joe Biden: 4.1 million jobs were created in the 6 months since his inauguration, and GDP is eclipsing its pre-pandemic high. He has overseen the <u>full inoculation</u> of 81.4% of Americans over 65 years and 62.8% of Americans over 12 years of age, impressive numbers considering the hostility of Republican voters and officials in the South.

Biden engineered passage of The American Rescue Plan without a single Republican vote and is on the verge of signing the bipartisan infrastructure act that eluded Trump. Nor would I rule out passage of the critical "human" infrastructure plan or legislation to redress the dozens of voter suppression bills passed by Republican state legislators who fear nothing so much as democracy.

This is not the record of someone who is suffering from dementia or is otherwise unfit for office.

Indeed, the claim is so ludicrous, so spectacularly stupid that one might think Scott is a moron. But while Scott may be a reprobate, he is no moron. A moron couldn't have presided over a company that committed what was then the <u>greatest Medicare fraud</u> and walk away with a \$300 million golden parachute. A moron couldn't have implemented an unemployment benefits plan so complicated that people simply <u>gave up</u> applying for unemployment insurance, allowing him to brag about his low unemployment numbers.

Scott is comfortable making a claim only credulous fools and ignoramuses could believe because that is his intended audience. It includes the multiple millions of our fellow citizens who resemble the Brownshirts of the prior century's Twenties. Do not believe "It can't happen here." It *will* happen here unless we hold Congress next year.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, September 2021, p. 7.