**Politics - Ponderings**

**Politics is the art of making the inevitable appear to be the matter of wise human choice. *(Quentin Crisp)***

**Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. *(Oscar Ameringer, labor organizer)***

**Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable – the art of the next best. *(Otto von Bismarck)***

**Never believe anything in politics until it has been officially denied. *(Otto von Bismarck)***

**To err is human; to blame it on the other party is politics. *(Bill Vaughan, NANA)***

**When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators. *(P. J. O'Rourke)***

**Ninety percent of politics is deciding whom to blame. *(Meg Greenfield, in Newsweek)***

**A politician is a man who will double-cross that bridge when he comes to it. (*Oscar Levant, writer)***

**February: The birth month of Washington and Lincoln, those great patriots whom the politicians find so handy to wish for and whom they would find so embarrassing to have around. *(Bill Vaughan, NANA)***

**Political genius consists of hearing the distant hoof-beat of the horse of history and then leaping to catch the passing horseman by the coattails. *(Otto von Bismarck)***

**You have to respect the writing of Simon Cameron. What else he wrote, I do not know, but he wrote this: “An honest politician is one who, when bought, stays bought.” It is enough. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Anything that keeps a politician humble is healthy for democracy. *(Michael Kinsley, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Ordinary leaders believe governing is about meetings, conferences, phone calls, rules and decisions. Extraordinary leaders know it is about a higher calling to the people. “Ideas are the stuff of politics,” says former Presidential speechwriter Tony Dolan. “Ideas are the great moving forces of history.”*(Ken Adelman, Tribune Media Services)***

**Our political institutions work remarkably well. They are designed to clang against each other. The noise is democracy at work. *(Michael Novak)***

**Some of our best journalists take themselves even more seriously than the politicians they write about. *(R. W. Apple, Jr.)***

**Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel. *(*(Sir John Quinton, banker)**

**Politicians who complain about the media are like sailors who complain about the sea. *(Enoch Powell)***

**One of the melancholy facts of political life is that your convictions tend to align with your paycheck. *(Barton Swaim, former Republican speech-writer)***

The mistakes made by Congress wouldn’t be so bad if the next Congress didn’t keep trying to correct them. *(Cullen Hightower)*

**The single most exciting thing you encounter in government is competence, because it’s so rare. *(Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan)***

**The most important political office is that of private citizen. *(Louis Brandeis)***

**The person who uses political power to force others to conform to his ideas seems inevitably to become corrupted by the power he holds. In due course he comes to believe that power and wisdom are the same thing and, since he has power, he must also have wisdom. At this point he begins to lose his ability to distinguish between what is morally right and what is politically expedient. *(Adm. Ben Moreell)***

**Politicians fail to keep many of their promises. It’s one of the main reasons this country has survived for more than 200 years. *(William D. Tammeus, in Kansas City Star)***

**The rush for political officeholders to hire public-relations experts and marketing people to make them look good is much like hiring an ad writer to prepare an advertisement for chewing gum that promises a better taste. All the world knows that the taste will disappear after a certain amount of chewing. *(Carl Riblet, Jr., in Quote magazine)***

**When the search for truth is confused with political advocacy, the pursuit of knowledge is reduced to the quest for power. *(Alston Chase, in In a Dark Wood)***

**Any politician who starts shouting election-year demagoguery about the rich and the poor should be asked, “What about the other 90 percent of the people?” *(Thomas Sowell, Creators Syndicate)***

**The reason so many politicians stand on their records is that they're afraid somebody might read them. *(Frank L. Rush)***

**To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I think people should go into public office for a term or two, and then get back into their businesses and live under the laws that they passed. *(Mike Curb)***

**In politics, two wrongs make a precedent. *(Victor Lasky, author)***

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