**Politics**

**Politics, as a practice, whatever its professions, has always been the systematic organization of hatreds. *(Henry Adams)***

**Practical politics consists in ignoring facts. *(Henry Adams, historian)***

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**In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress. *(John Adams)***

**Alien Invasion: When Americans across the country go to the polls in November, most will be registered as Democrats or Republicans. But in Pennsylvania, a registration processing error means that almost 300 people have been registered as members of the Adarian Party -- named after a fictional race of space aliens. "I don't know how that happened," said one registered Adarian voter. "I looked it up online and started reading about Star Wars." *(AARP Bulletin / Real Possibilities, November, 2015)***

**Nothing is so admirable in politics as a short memory. *(John Kenneth Galbraith, economist)***

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**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 looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies. *(Ernest Benn, British publisher)***

**Politics is the art of postponing decisions until they are no longer relevant. *(Henri Queuille, French Prime Minister)***

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

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**If you are asking politics to be the reigning source of meaning in your life, you are asking more of politics than it can bear. Seeking to escape sadness, loneliness, and anomie through politics serves only to drop you into a world marked by fear and rage, by a sadistic striving of domination. Sure, you’ve left the moral vacuum – but you’ve landed in the pulverizing destructiveness of moral war. *(David Brooks, in The Atlantic magazine)***

**Overnight is an eternity in politics. *(James Baker, former Secretary of State)***

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

**You can lead a man to Congress, but you can't make him think*. (Milton Berle, comedian)***

**More than 11 percent of the world’s billionaires – 242 out of 2,072 – have held or run for political office, according to a study by Northwestern University. (CNBC.com., as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 10, 2023)**

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

**It’s too bad the people who really know how to run the country are so busy cutting hair and driving taxis. *(George Burns)***

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

**Thomas Nast, one of America’s great political cartoonists (for Harper’s Weekly) gave us the donkey as the Democratic Party symbol and the elephant for the Republicans. He also gave us the tiger to typify Tammany Hall, which he hated. Nast died in May 1902, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where he was serving as U.S. Consul General. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 51)***

**How many politicians does it take to change a light bulb? Two – one to change it, and another to change it back again. *(The American Legion magazine)***

**Are political choices hardwired? We may think we vote in line with our economic interests and social values, but our politics may be driven largely by our biological makeup. University of Nebraska researchers measured how aroused the nervous systems of highly conservative and liberal voters became while they viewed positive images, such as pictures of babies or cute animals, and negative scenes featuring car wrecks or fearsome insects. The conservatives showed greater interest in negative images, while liberals responded more strongly to positive ones. When researchers showed both groups collages that intermingled positive and negative images while tracking their eye movements, they found that conservatives focused on the more alarming material. Even on a physiological level, conservatives appear to spend more energy “monitoring things that make them feel uncomfortable,” psychologist Mike Dodd tells LiveScience.com. That may make them more receptive to campaigns that stress their fears, while liberals are more drawn to hopeful plans for the future. “It’s amazing the extent to which they perceive the world differently,” said political scientist John Hibbing, who helped design the study. *(The Week magazine, February 24, 2012)***

**Political party loyalties tend to surface, even at Christmas. There's a Republican who has a nativity scene out in front of his house. In one part of it, Joseph is leading Mary into the manger, but she isn't on a donkey. It's an elephant. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Politics are almost as exciting as war, and quite as dangerous. In war, you can only be killed once. *(Winston Churchill)***

**Being president is like running a cemetery: You’ve got a lot of people under you and nobody’s listening. *(William Jefferson Clinton)***

**In politics, what begins in fear usually ends in folly. *(Samuel Taylor Coleridge)***

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

**In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant. *(Charles de Gaulle)***

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

**Politicians are like diapers. They both should be changed often. And for the same reason. *(Quoted by Tom Blair, in San Diego Union-Tribune)***

**Political donations from wealthy individuals working in the financial-services sector jumped 700 percent over the past two decades. In 2010, those donors contributed $178.2 million, up from $15.4 million in 1990. *(WSJ.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 10, 2012)***

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

**“Can you believe a candidate dropped out of the race because of a lack of campaign funds?” asks comedian Kevin Nealon. “Any politician who stops spending just because he’s out of money doesn’t belong in Washington anyway!” *(Saturday Night Live,” NBC)***

**Bad week for: Divine intervention, after North Miami mayoral candidate Anna Pierre distributed campaign posters featuring an endorsement from Jesus Christ. Pierre, who said she had personally received three signs of Jesus’ support, finished last in a seven-person race. *(The Week magazine, May 24, 2013)***

**And that is how that kind of faith interacts with politics. If we cannot know for sure at all times how to govern our own lives, what right or business do we have telling others how to live theirs? From a humble faith comes toleration of other faiths. And from that toleration comes the oxygen that liberal democracy desperately needs to survive. That applies to all faiths, from Islam to Christianity. In global politics, it translates into a willingness to recognize empirical reality, even when it disturbs our ideology and interests. From moderate religion comes pragmatic politics. From a deep understanding of human fallibility comes the political tradition we used to call conservatism. *(Andrew Sullivan, in The Conservative Soul)***

**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)***

**The first lesson of economics is scarcity: There is never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics. (Thomas Sowell, economist, in The New York Times)**

**My father was a statesman. I’m a political woman. My father was a saint. I’m not. *(Indira Gandhi)***

**What makes someone a liberal or a conservative? Parental influence plays a role, as does life experience. But a new study says our political views may be largely the result of an inborn, visceral predisposition. In a survey of more than 8,000 sets of identical and maternal twins, scientists charted their views on each “gut” political issues as school prayer, property taxes, the draft, and labor unions. Not surprisingly, most people had strong, emotional views. But the identical twins, who had the same genes, were significantly more likely to hold the same opinions of these issues than were the fraternal twins, whose genes were not identical. The researchers’ close analysis of the twins’ opinions suggested that some people are born with a predisposition to be conservative, others have a liberal bias at birth. “When people talk about the political debate becoming increasingly nasty, they often blame talk radio or the people doing the debating,” researcher Dr. John Alford of Rice University tells The New York Times. “But they’ve got it backward. These generically predisposed ideologies are polarized, and that’s what makes the debate so nasty.” The findings don’t offer much hope for resolving the country’s bitter political divide. Because men and women seek mates with similar ideologies, Alford says, the conservative and progressive gene pools are becoming more concentrated, not less. *(The Week magazine, July 15, 2005)***

**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)***

**Not all that long ago, the GOP was the party of Big Business, free markets,”traditional” family values, and anti-communism. Now it has become the party of election denial and the Wall. As Ronald Reagan put it during his 1980 campaign, “You don’t build a nine-foot fence along the border between two friendly nations.” An early draft of the speech went further still: “We cannot erect a Berlin Wall across the southern border.” *(Kim Phillips-Fein, in The Atlantic magazine)***

**Political correctness is tyranny with manners. *(Charlton Heston)***

**An honest politician is one who, when he is bought, will stay bought. *(Simon Cameron, U.S. Senator)***

**No one party can fool all of the people all of the time. That’s why we have two parties. *(Bob Hope)***

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

**We believe that to err is human. To blame it on someone else is politics. *(Former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey)***

**Politically speaking, the ideal accident would be a collision between the man seeking the office and the office seeking the man. *(Electricity on the Farm)***

**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)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**When Jefferson wrote that we had a government of the people, by the people and for the people, he apparently was talking about who was going to pick up the tab. *(American Legion magazine)***

**I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. *(Thomas Jefferson)***

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**Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges even when there is no river. *(Nikita Khrushchev)***

**Ninety percent of politicians give the other 10 percent a bad name. *(Henry Kissinger)***

**Pollster to political candidate: "The latest poll shows 11 percent undecided, Senator. However, you've got 89 percent who'll vote for you when hell freezes over." *(Lichty, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)***

**Lawyer: Larval stage of politician. *(The PassTime Paper)***

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**Some Iraqi politicians are telling voters if they don’t vote for them, they’ll go to hell. Imagine trying to use your religion to get votes. Thank God politicians in this country don’t try that type of thing. *(Jay Leno)***

**Politics is just show business for ugly people*. (Jay Leno)***

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**A liberal is a conservative who has been arrested. *(Tom Wolfe, in Politico)***

**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)**

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**Listening to a political speech is like archery -- you have to make allowances for the wind. *(Dorothy Galyean, in Quips and Quotes and Cleaned Up Jokes)***

**Woman after listening to politician: "His speeches are like horns on a steer -- a point here, and point there, and a lot of bull in between." *(Martin Buxbaum, in Table Talk)***

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**We should just have a lottery. If you lose, you have to be speaker. *(Rep. Mike Collins, in The New York Times)***

**In politics, sincerity is everything. Once you can fake that, you’ve got it made. *(Groucho Marx)***

**Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies. *(Groucho Marx)***

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**Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game and dumb enough to think it’s important. *(Eugene McCarthy)***

**Politics is like coaching a football team. You have to be smart enough to understand the game but not smart enough to lose interest. *(Eugene McCarthy)***

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**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)***

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**There is something about a national convention that makes it as fascinating as a revival or a hanging. It is vulgar, it is ugly, it is stupid, it is tedious, it is hard upon both the higher cerebral centers and the gluteus maximus, and yet it is somehow charming. *(H. L. Mencken)***

**If a politician found he had cannibals among his constituents, he would promise them missionaries for dinner. *(H. L. Mencken)***

**A good politician is quite as unthinkable as a good burglar. *(H. L. Mencken)***

**The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by an endless series of hobgoblins, most of them imaginary. *(H. L. Mencken)***

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**There is nothing further away from Washington than the entire world. *(Arthur Miller)***

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**Washington, D.C., is to lying what Wisconsin is to cheese. *(Dennis Miller)***

**“A tax-cut bill failed to pass Congress,” says comedian Dennis Miller, “because the House refuses to sign anything that doesn’t say ‘Pay to the Order Of.’” *(“The Dennis Miller Show,” Tribune Entertainment)***

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

When you mix politics and science, you get politics. *(John M. Barry, historian)*

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**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)***

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**Ideas are great arrows, but there has to be a bow. And politics is the bow of idealism. *(Bill Moyers)***

**The politician is trained in the art of inexactitude. His words tend to be blunt or rounded because if they have a cutting edge they may later return to wound him. *(Edward R. Murrow)***

**In politics, stupidity is not a handicap. *(Napoleon Bonaparte)***

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

**Everybody knows politics is a contact sport. *(President Barack Obama)***

**Political office feeds your vanity but starves your self-respect. *(Matthew Parris, former British lawmaker)***

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**Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder**

**respectable, and to give the appearance of solidity to pure wind. *(George Orwell)***

**In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible. *(George Orwell)***

**There is no such thing as “keeping out of politics.” All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred, and schizophrenia. *(George Orwell)***

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**Teacher: “What are the three parties in America?” Pupil: “Democratic, Republican, and cocktail.” *(Jeannette Fidell, Jokes, Jokes, Jokes, p. 106)***

**Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn’t mean politics won’t take an interest in you. *(Pericles)***

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**One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. *(Plato)***

**Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber. *(Plato)***

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**Polarizing people is a good way to win an election and a good way to wreck a country. *(Molly Ivins, columnist)***

**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, from a speech)***

**Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them. (*Paul Velery, poet)***

**The problem is not one of politics mixing with education – the issue is which politics will be mixed with education. *(Keeanga Yamahtta Taylor, activist, in The New Republic)***

**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)***

**Political questions are far too serious to be left to the politicians. *(Hannah Arendt)***

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**Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book. *(Ronald Reagan)***

**It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first. *(Ronald Reagan)***

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**Writers and politicians are natural rivals. Both groups try to make the world in their own images. *(Salman Rushdie)***

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**It is awful hard to get people interested in corruption unless they can get some of it. *(Will Rogers)***

**Mixing politics and religion is like mixing manure and ice cream. It doesn’t do much to the manure, but it surely does ruin the ice cream. *(Will Rogers)***

**Ohio claims they are due a president as they haven’t had one since Taft. Look at the United States, they have not had one since Lincoln. *(Will Rogers)***

**A politician is just like a pickpocket; it’s almost impossible to get him to reform. *(Will Rogers)***

**If all politicians fished, instead of spoke publicly, we would be at peace with the world. *(Will Rogers)***

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**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)***

**Politics appears to give people a sense of righteousness: A person’s moral stature is based not on their conduct, but on their location on the political spectrum. You don’t have to be good; you just have to be a liberal – or you just have to be conservative. The stronger a group’s claim to victim status, the more virtuous it is assumed to be, and the more secure its members can feel about their own innocence. *(David Brooks, in The Atlantic magazine)***

**How sports affects politics: Politicians have good reason to root for their local sports teams. A Stanford University study has found that when the local team wins, it boosts the mood of voters so much that incumbents benefit on Election Day. The study looked at federal and state elections between 1964 and 2008, along with the records of 62 college football teams. Researchers found that game victories in the two weeks before elections increased the incumbents’ share of voters in the counties where the schools were located by about 1.5 percent – enough to make a difference in close races. Victories put voters in a better mood generally, researcher Neil Malhotra tells the Associated Press, and that translates into more support for sitting politicians. “Events that government had nothing to do with but that affect voters’ sense of well-being can affect the decisions they make on Election Day,” Malhotra says. *(The Week magazine, July 23, 2010)***

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

**Statesmen should remember that they have been elected to persuade and to lead, and not just to accept as fixed the momentary moods and pernicious prejudices of the public. *(Stanley Hoffman, historian)***

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**A hypocrite is the kind of politician who would cut down a redwood tree, then mount the stump and make a speech for conservation. *(Adlai Stevenson, former Democratic presidential candidate)***

**A politician is a statesman who approaches every question with an open mouth. *(Adlai Stevenson)***

There are worse things than losing an election. The worst thing is to lose one's convictions and not tell the people the truth. *(Adlai Stevenson)*

**The hardest thing about any political campaign is how to win without proving that you are unworthy of winning. *(Adlai Stevenson)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)***

**I don’t approve of political jokes; I’ve seen too many of them get elected. *(Jon Stewart, in What’s Up Newp)***

**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)***

**At the Thanksgiving dinner, one says to the other: “And let us give thanks that the election is over and hope that politics goes back to just being a nuisance.” (Wiley, in Non Sequitur comic strip)**

**In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman. (Margaret Thatcher)**

**Political thoughts are like deer. They’re very delicate and don’t want you to look at them directly. *(George Saunders)***

**Politicians who throw dirt lose ground. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The Manichaean tribalism of politics appears to give people a sense of belonging. For many years, America seemed to be awash in a culture of hyper-individualism. But these days, people are quick to identify themselves by their group: Republican, Democrat, evangelical, person of color, LGBTQ, southerner, patriot, progressive, conservative. People who feel isolated and under threat flee to totalizing identities. *(David Brooks, in The Atlantic magazine)***

**All the president is is a glorified public relations man who spends his time flattering, kissing, and kicking people to get them to do what they are supposed to do anyway. *(Harry Truman)***

**No one has ever doubted that truth and politics are on rather bad terms with each other. *(Hannah Arendt)***

**The amount of time a sample of local TV newscasts devoted to stories about government and politics fell to 3 percent last year, down from 7 percent in 2005, a new Pew Research study found. With reporting staffs shrinking, 40 percent of the average newscast was taken up by segments about weather, sports, and traffic. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 29, 2013)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself. *(Mark Twain)***

**To lodge all power in one party and keep it there is to insure bad government. *(Mark Twain)***

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**The two most frightening words in Washington are “bipartisan consensus.” Bipartisan consensus is like when my doctor and my lawyer agree with my wife that I need help. *(P. J. O’Rourke)***

**There are two things that are important in politics. The first is money, and I can’t remember what the second one is. *(Mark Hanna, U.S. Senator)***

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**To understand the workings of American politics, you have to understand this fundamental law: Conservatives think liberals are stupid. Liberals think conservatives are evil. *(Charles Krauthammer)***

**Wax sculptors at Tussaud’s museum in London made a statue of Michael Dukakis. As soon as the returns settled the election, they melted it down. That’s politics. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Politicians are wedded to the truth, but like many other married couples they sometimes live apart. *(H. H. Munro, writer)***

**The military don’t start wars. Politicians start wars. *(Gen. William C. Westmoreland, American military commander)***

The four most important words in politics are “up to a point.” *(George Will)*

**Only in America . . . do we use the word “politics” to describe the process so well: “Poli” in Latin meaning “many” and “tics” meaning “blood-sucking creatures.” *(From Eculaugh, as it appeared in the Boulder Interfaith Council newsletter, February, 1999)***

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

**William Donaldson, who was city manager of Cincinnati from 1975 to 1979, went off to Philadelphia to become manager of the Philadelphia Zoo, the oldest in the nation. When asked what upsets him most in his new post, Donaldson answered, “People calling the legislature a zoo. How can people compare a zoo with a roomful of politicians?” *(New York Daily News)***

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