

Golden Rules

Measuring Life by a Different Standard

Fourth Quarter, 2018

This year's midterm election has prompted more than its share of commentary – – mostly divisive and caustic, some of it ridiculous, and some of it funny. During our exhaustive research of historical commentary, we unearthed other inglorious responses provided by politicians and other celebrities over the years. Clearly those who provided these zingers were *Measuring Life by a Different Standard*. Hopefully, these quips will provide levity, and thus, we will understand that our current demeaning commentary is not unique in world history.

- **Woman at White House Dinner:** "Mr. Coolidge, I've made a bet against a fellow who said it was impossible to get more than two words out of you." **Coolidge:** "You lose."
- **Senator Fritz Hollings, when challenged by his opponent for the Senate to take a drug test:** "I'll take a drug test if you'll take an IQ test."
- **Hollywood Actress:** "I enjoyed reading your book. Who wrote it for you?" **Ilka Chase:** "Darling, I'm so glad that you liked it. Who read it for you?"
- **Admirer:** "Herr Mozart, I am thinking of writing symphonies. Can you give me any suggestions as to how to get started?" **Mozart:** "A symphony is a very complex musical form. Perhaps you should begin with something simpler." **Admirer:** "But Herr Mozart, you were writing symphonies when you were 8 years old." **Mozart:** "Yes, but I never asked anybody how."
- **Abraham Lincoln, after being called "two-faced":** "If I had two faces, do you think I'd be wearing this one?"
- **Audience member:** "What do you think of the singer's execution?" **President Coolidge:** "I'm all for it."
- **Parliament member:** "Mr. Prime Minister, must you fall asleep while I'm speaking?" **Winston Churchill:** "No, it's purely voluntary."
- **Reporter:** "What do you think of Western civilization?" **Gandhi:** "I think it would be a wonderful idea."
- **Anonymous singer:** "You know, my dear Hopkins, I insured my voice for fifty thousand dollars." **Hopkins:** "That's wonderful. And what did you do with the money?"
- **Two members of Parliament:** **J.H. Thomas:** "Could you direct me to the House of Commons restroom?" **F.E. Smith:** "First left, go along the corridor. You'll see a door marked 'Gentlemen,' but don't let that deter you."
- **William Springer, quoting Henry Clay:** "I would rather be right than be President." **Thomas Reed:** "The gentleman need not trouble himself. He will never be either."
- **George Bernard Shaw:** "I have reserved two tickets for you for opening night. Come and bring a friend, if you have one." **Winston Churchill:** "Impossible to come to first night. Will come to second night, if you have one."
- **Author Robert Benchley, to a uniformed man:** "My good man, would you please get me a taxi?" **Man:** "I'm not a doorman. I happen to be a rear admiral in the United States Navy." **Benchley:** "All right then; get me a battleship!"



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