

## Promises, Part 2

*GORE and George W. BUSH wrestle over the coat—it is a silly, drawn out and sloppy altercation. W. Bush wins and gloats as walks center stage. Spot up. W. Bush stands in the same place Washington he did in the Washington play. We hear the same birds from the top of the show.*

VOICEOVER: George W. Bush is one of three Presidents who won the Presidency without the popular vote, yet the only one of those three to be re-elected. His government has not ushered in the first conservative swing in American politics. Yes, these things have happened before. And the angry people survived, as the tide of political ideology eventually flowed their way.

*During the above paragraph, Actors 2 & 5 come out—one with a blindfold, and the other with a baseball bat. They turn him toward the Saddam effigy. W. Bush stalks, slowly but unsurely, almost swinging, but tentative. Actors 2 & 5 exit.*

Most presidential scholars agreed that, during his first term, President Bush was a very effective President. He set his sights on clearly defined goals, announced his intentions, and carefully, ploddingly, succeeded in achieving most of those goals.

*W. Bush bats the Saddam effigy off the hook and hopefully clear into the audience. Actors 1 & 5 move the Presidential seal behind W. Bush into the spotlight. He removes his blindfold, squints out into the audience, and surveys his sweet distance shot.*

Isaiah Berlin, in his famous essay “The Fox and the Hedgehog,” bi-categorized the world into two personality types: foxes and hedgehogs. While Bill Clinton is undoubtedly a fox, George W. Bush is the very definition of a hedgehog. In the midst of political or social change, turmoil, and setbacks, a hedgehog never wavers.

*A pillow (not the same Saddam pillow) is thrown at Bush. He acts like it didn't happen.*

There have been many world leaders who could be considered hedgehogs. The old story, older than Shakespeare, is that the qualities we once admired in these leaders are often what we eventually can't stand about them.

*More pillows are flung at the President. Pillows of various sizes, shapes, colors. From all around him. First they begin slowly, eventually there's a pillow onslaught. While this goes on, he waves at and attempts to shake hands with members of the audience (if the stage setup permits it) While the pillows strike him, he does not falter. He does not fail.*

The ultimate legacy of his presidency will long be a matter of debate, and our opinion of Mr. Bush will likely evolve with the ebb and flow of our politics—as the choices we make as voters swing our country to the right, then left, then right, then left again...

*Spot stays up on seal. W. Bush winks goodbye, takes off the coat, turns and hangs it up. Pillows continue. He exits. A single pillow hits him in the face as he waves farewell.*

*THERE IS NO TRANSITION BETWEEN THE FINAL PRESIDENT AND THE EPILOGUE.*

\*Epilogue – Props: voter registration cards.

## **Epilogue**

*Actor 4 remains on voiceover.*

VOICEOVER: Franklin Roosevelt once said:

*DIRECT QUOTE LIGHT ON:*

“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.”

*DIRECT QUOTE LIGHT OFF.*

Please take a voter-registration card from one of the performers. Find someone you know who does not vote. You know who we mean—that weirdo with the really specific and lazy rationale—find that person, or wait until you meet that person, and regardless of their party affiliation, please do your best to convince them to register.

*Actors 1, 2, 3 & 5 go into the house and hand out voter registration cards.*

The voters before us made these United States—voted for and built the government that we have today. And they have left it in our hands, that we may cherish it and say “look at what we’ve done,” or that we may disapprove, and fight in the tradition of our founders for better representation.

Dwight Eisenhower said:

*DIRECT QUOTE LIGHT ON:*

“The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.”

*DIRECT QUOTE LIGHT OFF.*

So too was the past. The history of the Presidency is in many ways the history of our people.

Look to your history. Look at your hands. Look at what we’ve done.

**END OF PLAY**