

**POX AMERICANA: THE COLD WAR IN POETRY**

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## PROLOGUE

My lord, the times are changing needing rearranging calling for solutions to problems heretofore swept under the door straining credence and pretense that lack of growth makes sense that military recompense equates to dollars and cents that mimic investments as by Japanese and German gents who built the trains and cars, products galore while we extolled the virtues of war and cheered for more.

The weakness of the Soviet threat exposed to all that by and large they could'nt deliver the limped arrows in their quiver CIA estimates masked untruths that generations of youths fueled entrenched ignorance infecting with a pestilence a doughty type of preference for armageddon's cheerful succor brutish strength and megawar expose the love of war; let's fantasize and mobilize drop some bombs and vaporize.

Generations come and go basking in the reflected afterglow of people's claims to really know, Oh GI Joe the shmoe hoes the row sinks his toe in depths of dung so far below that excavating rung by rung yields yet more layered piles of dung trampels memories cruelly sung of how we triumphed and begat a peace barely threatened at such cost that hopes were set in permafrost yielding puisilanamous pedantry.

Was it fate, the national security state or chance or fancy, necromancy that steered our course skimmed our bourse a cowboy on a great white horse John Wayne performing legerdemain insulating us from the pain inflicted in the main singing a repetititve refrain that we're so noble we're so pure we have such great allure we are the best forevermore, Oh mirror, mirror on the wall did we but prepare for a fall?

The Cold War deprived two generation's growth punctuated by loyalty oath patriots loathe-some questions linking posturing greed feeding on fears that years' repetition equates with need neutering seed for technology save for destructionists publicists for hope and hoary atavistic glory alliance builders mythologizing institutions and threats placing bets that we're so rich that we can afford treading water.

NATO persists as myth to smite no Soviet foe a mythologic flow of rivers and streams to dam or not to dam but streams don't course without a source the Soviet bourse had run its course no Kissinger to ride Kennan's horse adaptations fail statesmen flail will not prevail sing hay, nonny nonny let civil wars prevail interventions fail sinking boaters bail, Nirvana's a tale seek out a greener vale.

The only superpower is a lonely power wilted flower reflections sour heroic legends empower imagination's reign difficult refrain memories remain that never were did not occur emerge to blur ruffle patriot's fur self-satisfactions spur ennobling pretentions compounding predilections spinning tales of glory, hortatory oratory proclaiming victory of mythological dimensions singing Who's afraid of the big red bear who wasn't there?

It's time to be affirmative not surly or squirmative reactive passivity is better than a proclivity to bounce around infinity with messy wars in between; the wasted past will only last till practicality ushers in reality and seed replaces political greed to feed fears that bleed the cornucopia awaiting paranoia's demise the preacher's reprise: "Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, free at last!"

## POX AMERICANA: THE COLD WAR IN POETRY

### 1. TRUMAN

Truman was he, Harry S.: they say: he's petty and narrow, ill-tempered and shallow, a mind that's less fallow than more sensitive folks a brunt for jokes lacking in dignity sharing an affinity or even proclivity for cronies and phoneys who giggle and shrug and care not a plug for critics of

musical Marguerite not effete but replete with twenty years of treason? is there a spark to make a mark hit a ball out of the park.

How could he have come so far, so puny following F.D.R. still in that long night's war son of Prendergast low middle class talking crass kicking ass we see him not in our looking glass he's petty, provincial painfully elemental never quintessential of little mission without a vision full of indecision leading a transition confronting perdition answering charges of sedition reflecting derision.

Truman is coming, he's really a sight, he gives us a fright little delight with nary a notice of where he's been nobody knows where he'll go the future's written on blowing snow that will not oulast a thaw or stubborn thrusting jaw against a sea of change consummate melange beyond the grange mimicking Falange sing home on the range foes blathering prose teetering precariously on FDR's grave.

We're talking about cold wars, hot wars, star wars, stupid wars and others not so classy; shades of Haile Selassie restored, Ho Chi Minh gored, France restored, Vichy ignored, homage to potentates, security states, democracy's ebb is victory's gift, o lord it's so sordid that freedom's morbidity stresses lucidity threatens liquidity escape rigidity avoid perfidity hocus pocus eschew narrow focus.

Commies come and commies go reflecting red dayglo on brilliant swatches of black and tan intimidating McCarthy, Nixon's baiting, Knowland's waiting, everyboy's tergiversating, fornicating, copulating populating calibrating the spread of Communism round the globe; mythic, monolithic, paleolithic spreading out from Panmunjam fanning fires telling lies spawning myriads of hidden spies.

Containment's not beyond our Kennan Marshall Plans will keep them penned in Truman's Doctrine seems to say that revolutions had their day but is not so, cannot forego the fate of Germany's reprise, peace demise, fantasize, mobilise; Tito's lurking in the den, Hirohito reigns again, Stalin stumbles on Solzhenitzens' pen write new stories create new myths build new missiles guns and ships.

Little like a florid phallus trumpets blare for Henry Wallace and Fielding Stroma a lurid guitar protecting all by segregation's bar no ingress or egress they've come too far, jump down turn around nappy-headed nigras; know-nothings win miscagenation's a sin, they're screwy about Dewey you can't win bring Ike in, he'll knock Dewey on his ass who is cream of the crop? break out the mop clean up the slop.

NATO waits entangling peace, its threat bars threat but still we fret pretending war's a likely bet, intelligence of little use save the race and save the nation practice for a giant celebration, victory's within our clasp unless we let slip our grasp or steal it from ourselves so scary hang them high the Rosenberry comsymps here comsymps there enemies are everywhere banish them the Hollywood ten.

Korea mocks, China's near we're so mighty have no fear knock them right on their ear lines of defense make more sense with Taiwan well within our fence, we sense commence the elements of hullabaloo to the Yalu taunt and flaunt our intent to reunite the continent dare to circumvent America's global bent hail to the President his will prevail anti-reddish holy grail MacArthur's muscles limply flail.

It's so messy trash the prexy he's so common never sexy belittle twiddle to heart's content defame the man and president call him rude and crude, a traitor to the nation launching charge and revelation evisceration flagellation bring him to a termination they lack grounds know no bounds never circumspect show no respect: is this all we can expect? criminality an affect of partisan neglect wailingly genuflect?

A fragile delicate flower, democracy succumbs to fascist power if defense bereft of vigilance moral sense receives no recompense little defense is left to the provenance of McCarthyites

troglydites luddites parasites feeding on freedom's weakness meekness or mimics the destroyers by eliminating noises, choices, voices, color it dark or simply shallow it's a pit in which to wallow heroes can be callow.

## EISENHOWER

Eisenhower was he, Dwight David (Ike): What a grin almost a sin with him we'll win win win whichever party he's in; hail Columbia, show his perspicacity minimize pugnacity demonstrate sagacity celebrate with alacrity we don't need nobility just amiable ability homespun agility unsurpassing intellect upright sensitivity little creativity numbly reassuring frequently boring never exploring consummate change.

Rescue from the Korean morass snatching victory from victory's defeat repeat if elected I shall go to Korea-o I shall bring an end to clumsy fumbling dilettante tumbling head over ass in that awful morass with China's hordes talked back to where they came from, Asias' lands -- evacuate, terminate, extricate, inculcate passivity, threaten bombastic activity, cherish proclivity, let sleeping bears lie.

Eisenhower, Bradley, Ridgeway and more engage us not on Asia's shore follow lyrics true to score harken to the Terpsichore avoid embedded metaphore, manipulate mythic battlements escape suffocating entanglements eschew needy supplicants, siren singing mendicants tiptoeing softly through the door seeking unearned rewards and more rationalize sermonize proselytize hypothesize let the anxious criticize.

Bigger bangs for fewer bucks let them know that all war sucks fewer troops yield greater savings pacify the devil's ravings elevate John Foster Dulles, fight for Christ and common glory communism's negatory; mimic NATO at its best with SEATO, CENTO, and the rest lift up thine eyes pump up the chest the antichrist will not be blessed pound the chest ride the crest Pollyanna's quest remains the best.

We will not shall not permit the Reds to shake us in our comfy beds we'll dance around their toes and heads they'll learn that putting up their dukes will have us threaten them with nukes to vaporise, sanitise and proselytise the faint of hearty; harken to our coming-out party rattling chains saluting smartly dance a jig and jitterbug we're so comfy and so smug show a grave face and give us a hug.

Adventurous presidents learn to hustle with fewer troops with lesser muscle complement interventions implement civilian prexy's rash costly intent constitution's circumvent roiling up the firmament on and in and over they went to stir the blood of the president so strive to kindle public support, we are told so many young may never grow old illuminati exhibit fatuosity hankering after the brave and the bold.

Suez taunts Nasser flaunts fortune's fickle finger fumbles, Eden stumbles, France rages and rumbles, till the Fourth Republic tumbles liberating Charles de Gaulle cluttering a new generation with Gaullist indignation agitation keep the British from Europe's shore, kick NATO out cut the crap, force de frappe, France is back forever more Uncle Sam's a consummate bore Vive la France forever more.

What shall we do with Maxwell Taylor he'll venture more than we do favor he wants to activate not prevaricate contemplate elucidate passive aspects yearn for trying not denying fear of flying to a distant shore build a nation learn the score penetrate to the core celebrate, arrogate, have your way, they have no say shall not on this or any day set the terms evermore Oh Maxwell, I believe, you yearn for blood upon your sleeve.

Slowing from rebuilding showing Dow Jones tumbling wave flags investment lags future nags interest sags secular decline may seem irregular; blind hope abides eternally, Oh but to see that sloth begets laxity, can't assume alacrity trumpeting celebrity even less than mediocrity

expanding productivity won't keep us in the game relying on self-proclaimed fame gloriously contain non-threateners in their own plain.

So much adoring reassuring through two terms turned to boring ignoring, change to someone daring dashing icon-bashing symbols clashing oratory, remedy: Kennedy sired of Joe so laudatory of Hitler's glory McCarthy glory Oh the old familiar story such a face debator's disgrace wrap him in her old cloth coat prance and bray like a billy goat Nixon can't win glamour is in rigging elections not always a sin.

KENNEDY

Kennedy was he, John Fitzgerald: say, hey JFK, how many girls have you screwed today? intelligent, flashy, ever so sassy feint to the left sag to the right few will see and all agree that change qua change is meant to be that Camelot will fill the slot, fly to the moon attenuate sordid romance, lock the zipper on your pants now in the winter of discontent your star is brighter than the firmament.

There's nothing new in stealing elections part and parcel of popular selections cheer and rave McKinleyesque orations go anywhere challenge any foe stand up to the midgets toe to toe let our might grow grow cheer us on old Rudyard Kipling click our heels serve the mighty manifest our destiny, testimony to a new generation nothing can stay our course we have an unlimited bourse we can ride any horse.

It's certainly a time for joyful splendor you'll surely be a very heavy spender throw the mixture in the blender and remember, Camelot, hot to trot, laugh a lot give a yell, semper Fidel rot in hell ring the bell, and come out fighting the public will be delighting cheering and inciting energizing; Ike's temporizing is of the past at last so do it fast Vietnam awaits; he does it poorly who hesitates.

Take some bites from civil rights, rat pack fans will dance and cheer, mama mia Sam Giancana Frank Sinatra, what's the mafia? give Jimmy Hoffa fits lots of glitz and lots of charm culture's in while plans are made to change the game fan the flame, counter insurrection found a new nation show them our predilection for engineering war a thermador awaits our fate so hesitate or levitate proselytize and agitate.

We're so strong they cannot harm us, one war two or even more they'll rant and rave but they're so poor bluster, pose and idle threat no missiles stand on Cuba's shore who can stay us from our pleasure the Vietnamese will never measure dance our tune or face displeasure, we have unlimited treasure they cannot deny us our pleasure; Marilyn may ring your gong, but who the hell are the Viet Cong?

Get bigger bangs for megabucks build more missiles float more ships spread about more landing strips there's no end to our endeavor increasingly its evident our spender's zeal our lorelei, the military is our R&I invest and build to heart's content the biggest star in our firmament dreams our president omnipotent, it's evident and heaven sent Oh is he bent on flexing muscle or is it a rambunctious hustle?

Fool around with the MLF de Gaulle is neither blind nor deaf play his trump incessantly immoderately petulantly; generating push and shove old Nikita S. Khrushchev blusters to his heart's content posing as benevolent challenging our president offering missiles to Cubanos firing up the ignoramos posing as old Nostrodamus a delicate hippopotamus crushing a platypus creating on his mandolin a rather cacophonous din.

Reduce the tax to the max sound the trumpet blow the sax eliminate inactivity demonstrate selectivity buy more weapons that's the tune shoot the moon they'll never see the cost so much loss but the gloss of such activity an albatross that mocks the loss of future growth masks encroaching enervation, harbingers of a third world nation a peroration about inflation there's no limit to our elation.

Get away from the serene white palace take a drive through placid Dallas, contemplate such sordid souls stay away from grassy knolls O see for whom the dreaded bell tolls tears betray assorted fears to dominate future years liberate fantastic myths and stories fairy tales and allegories ever growing mythic glories none can deny the charges that will fly the suffering seems unendurable, time proves them curable.

Oh the tales that will be building this one that one will be willing legends built will share the billing fantasies of plotting thrilling generations yet to come weaving dramas that in sum will liberate imaginations agitations perorations intertwining hatreds of the devious diverse seeking to reverse history's golden wishful state, fate makes a date to contemplate the most ornate visions of conspiracy.

It's so vexin' having to face the tall strong Texan of calm demeanor, muscles flexing, little hint of active sexing, intellectually insecure inadequate next to New England's best, not really fit for the quest no holy grail send him straight to jail for daring to sense that even the pretense far exceeds the nation's need: Can't Bobby succeed, Pedernalis replace the Charles how garish how gauche is this all some kind of hoax?

JOHNSON

Johnson was he, Lyndon Baines: thane of Texas pride and boor claims to like the humble poor yields to noone ever more acolyte to FDR slurps his drinks from a jar likes to hang out at a bar display a really ugly scar, tall and brash as he can be demonstrate proclivity generate activity hypersensitivity to sniping friends of Bobby engaging in a sometimes hobby derogatory interrogatory postulate political purgatory.

He's so vain and coarse and crude disdain him from our neighborhood tragedian from the bard never matriculated at fabled Harvard little imagination little care is he really so unaware can't he compare to his forebear concentrate on socially grand, domesticity is bland but LBJ really understands the dire needs of this land domestic policy will be planned eliminating poverty would be grand get congressional heads out of the sand.

O Lyndon, focus your eyes on a society great as you prize don't vaporize, sermonize apologize cauterize the bleeding Vietnamize the inherited struggle the war on poverty can be won concentrate energies thereon imperialism's not your cup of tea harken not to the call of battle listen not to the prattle of the "brave", Medicare we crave succor us beyond the grave protect that which we save.

Never before had the poor so much hope for liberation from poverty's tribulation liberalism's thermidore stayed two years not less not more America's generosity is severely limited not exhibited hopes inhibited senses riveted fears of welfare queens emerge on the verge wear blue serge purge regurge conserve show some verve build reserve is it hope or fantasy that they serve do they really have the nerve?

"Let freedom ring, let freedom ring" the Reverent Martin Luther King set Bull Connor's nerves a-ting-a-ling save the nation's future generations integration's the thing ring the bells ring! Peroration celebration, ovation, agitation set our eyes on the prize sermonize, proselytize, said LBJ, "We shall overcome!" freedom is for all not just for some liberation is on the come the winner fights for civil rights.

Stop your bleating and your honkin what about the Gulf of Tonkin, never happened such deceiving sets us grieving mass believing crass misleading let's hear it for the Alamo and the Maine not repeat again again again and again refrain sounding the alarm may have its charm twists the public arm causing harm diverting blame inflicting shame don't defame cool the flame or ever after bear the shame passions maim.

Such audacity, such verve sets off a raw nerve Vietnam disrupts the serve devouring generations more poverty's war succumbs vexations numb our senses, tempers soar escalate to escalate prevaricate hesitate, devastation's the likely fate set a date tete-a-tete deliberate formulate levitate

evacuate those distant shores liberate from that fate generations lost will generate hate breeding hate.

Guns cost more than butter sure deferring makes it seem so pure pay the piper evermore non-indulgence such a bore America je t'adore who needs a sexless paramour tanks and ships have such allure divert the bills to foreign shores if resultant bills are great costs levitate saturate don't hesitate the poor can wait agitate and wish you ill forever more catastrophe can reach our shore throttling liberalism evermore.

Escalation of escalation only way to build the nation prevent eventual devastation pile more and more upon the shore bomb again again and still once more they will soon appreciate the high and low abortive great the body count may saturate the wimps always hesitate peer into the looking glass shoot the geeks and kick more ass; your constituents grow more restive end this interminable war – they'll be festive.

From '45 to '74 Vietnam was torn by a war a loss so big defeat so sure imperialism's only folly pure LBJ's career a sewer such service nevermore will lead to adulation have no fear he'll disappear leading party and Hubert to defeat folly of follies he's gone by golly no satisfaction Nixon will win the GOP is in let the party begin blind ambition triumphs forgive us our sin parleys begun will fade away hopes again dim.

NIXON

Nixon was he, Richard Milhouse: they say Tricky Dickie is so slicky makes you sicky feeling icky never sprightly thinks so lightly acts politely yet unsightly, but if this is all you view your head is in the loo for based on the evidence, arguably first among twentieth century's presidents modern as the getgo; glory, glory, what a story hortatory allegory strangest drama repertory cosummately negatory?

Ugly stories Jerry Voorhees full deception won election hints that Helen was a felon gobble up the Senatamelon something's amiss Alger Hiss Chambers' deadly kiss Earl Warren's rather barren Ike will make you number two animals are in the zoo, cloth coats will more than do anything you may say characters that you slay high anxiety justifies "piety" glibness overcomes notoriety.

Reckless charges fill the barges floating through cack-filled seas flags furled curses hurled reputations grossly slandered no respect beomes the standard hide the record rather checkered through deception predilection introspection not respected how are we supposed to view Spiro T. Agnew slimy brew retroview, what to do put some money in the shoe the odor supplements the view miscreants populate the zoo.

Sure he's like a leprechaun is Daniel Patrick Moynihan a paradox in gaudy sox choose such a winner not a sinner social predilection brilliant selection setting forth his homily: stability, family, tranquility, agility, versatility gracious what a face values all of human race help the needy not the greedy, they're so seedy benign neglect is never trendy stir the mixture in the blendy what a complex thermidor.

*Also sprach* that real humdinger Rockefeller's Kissinger bell ringer power clinger rarely fumbles often mumbles predilection for deception Metternichian inflection exhibits little introspection Realpolitik's resurrection manipulate the high and mighty ingratiate the potentate caress the press, oblige nobless the limitations you'll transgress the Vietnamese you'll terrorise the press and public mesmerise.

In '68 they set a date to pacify negotiate accelerate the end of war but fate conspired now t'was wired reflect the pres in '72 peace too soon will hardly do stealthily with aplomb Hanoi Haiphong targets to bomb expansion yields more killing fields secrecy shields the public view Cambodia will suffice, shameful vice people treat like vermin lice drown them in their fields of rice nothing noble nothing nice.

No end in sight the war's a blight no respite day or night dissidents so coarse and bright agitate, fulminate, Kent State sends shudders through bones and souls naught consoles the spirits unreconciled bodies piled domiciled in purgatory where's the glory unending war rots the core merde a l'hors is there no honesty, is there no end can't they but comprehend unlimited conflict war without end the spirits and the knees will bend.

Negotiation not confrontation proclamation of parity the USSR the same as we comity, subtlety power shared not liberty equals share responsibility inequality hostility if we do equivocate negotiate our fate deliberate settle European scores Middle Eastern lures if Brezhnev and Nixonovich facilitate cerebrate generate a fast tango rumba fandango the world will celebrate procreate it's elemento!

Ping your pong ring bells ring Kissinger in old Beijing planning is the thing Cho En-lai and Mao Tse-tung raising toasts praising hosts bypass Moscow Tokyo astonishing those in the know see the quaking China lobby all are guessing evanescent blessing confessing no one knows what it's all about Nixon has aroused great doubt such a dancer necromancer, entrancer image lancer hinted it be done who'd believe in such deceivin'?

Set in place enhance embrace squeeze his noble placid face Iran's Shah will be the man to stabilize Middle Eastern fare raise oil prices beyond all sense they'll purchase arms in recompense and regulate the neighborhood for apple pie and motherhood, a rock for all agree save for crazy Khomeini who is he a nerdy turd the Shah's our prince so cleanly groomed his reign is doomed how can that be how can that be.

Freeze those prices else they soar shield the rich soak the poor float those dollars from the gold be upstanding brave and bold forget about Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods sing a chorus of mares-eat-oats inscribe your hopes upon the future priestly piety masks perplexing anxiety we're so strong we'll endure the good will fear evil nevermore shield us from dangers off-shore we can survive endure our hearts are pure.

The fickle fingers of fate have a date with Watergate clumsy useless profligate a mind so nimble as above spies on Ellsberg DNC fools around with liberty surreptitiously maliciously prodigiously meretriciously yet tapes for providence accumulating evidence of guilt and shame difficult to defame innocence proclaim he records for all to know what a row to hoe oh arrogance of arrogance is nothing let but arrogance.

Furtive glance resonance Haldeman and Ehrlichman lean John Dean a talking machine felons grow like lima beans talent blurred malevolently lies flourish prevalently broken laws ethics flaws the highest office in the land like a castle in the sand the fall so grand as if it were planned by the greatest dramatist in the land had it all within his grasp what happened to his clasp all his cronies a final gasp.

In repose, prose shows talent knows no limit comprehends inward outward policy an unknown disability deprived us his ability for thence a paradox, was it paranoia, schizophrenia, some new dementia, self destroying shattering confidence in presidents yet to come that years will go before we may sense comparable competence will we trust again will confidence be restored will any future president dare to lead.

Shame and blame defame his name the game the polity; tragedy, profligacy, deviancy, calumny stain his record mark his term inflame the righteous, reverent uprightness yields consummate politeness yet darkness imperils the land: learning is bland ignorance grand recovery unplanned intelligence damned, fears in command the triumphs of his intelligence applications of policy eloquence no recompense.

FORD

Ford we he, Gerald M.: they say he's a real good fellow rather mellow bland as jello not bold or callow sleek or sallow a welcome respite Jerry in the cockpit not much for jargon a tendency for pardon facilitate revision, eliminate division, generate derision raise imprecision to a high art

seek to make a gentle start you'll never make the waters part keep them smiling yours is a generous heart.

Jerry, Jerry ne'er contrary how do the guilty go? hang them high if they're low at the highest let him go those who holler don't really know directional winds will surely blow the winds of change, the afterglow the seeds of doubt that you sow will haunt you taunt you vaunt you low seal your fate: just another Joe Shmoe rigor mortis as you know will settle in from head to toe you'll slip away in the undertow.

This really sucks, Korea redux, policy in flux no ducks in a row free the Pueblo let them go such a low blow, disgraceful show so force a grin cheer Michigan focus the nation on digital inflation trails and tribulation with an innovation; hold cow! let's whip inflation now, W.I.N., W.I.N., W.I.N., W.I.N., W.I.N. let them see your pleasant grin the people will try to follow they may not sense that it's so hollow.

Fight infection preface for election facilitate injection swine flu prevention some said they knew the 1918 flue was aiming for you and yours too the killer virus grew ill winds blew; show you care are certainly aware sing a medley that flu is deadly show the full panoply of dedicated policy leave critics in disarray; what the hell's Guillain-Barre will grow to swize the day will there be a price to pay?

In '76 pick up the sticks enter the fray run for prexy in your own way lead the troops sway the nation, Poland's not under Soviet domination hesitation's peroration evade fixation, adumbration, titillation, jubilation, agitation, lumnoxification may be your fate elucidate prevaricate, postulate profundity pray for fecundity stumble not through clumsiness may seem endearing doomsday may be looming, nearing.

## CARTER

Carter, Jimmy (James Earl): They say he's sweet and gentle rather sentimental puckishly elemental fundamentally judgmental significantly reverential systemically ecumenical occasionally hypocritical elliptically pontifical; holier than thee, thine, and thou who reap or plow or milk a cow or harvest silk purses from a sow endowed with the know-how to build a sub confused by the hubub of power.

Stroll with your bride to the swearing in James Earl is out Jimmy's in, celebrate with a truly great din lead to the Congress with your chinny chin chin charm them with a toothy grin lusting in your heart is your only sin the imperial presidency is no longer in the righteous center resonates, piety proliferates enemies crush who hesitates churlishness exacerbates kindness ne'er levitates.

There's such a burden on Hamilton Jorden to shout and howl like Jody Powell, prance and dance with ol' Bert Lance but shake a leg sooner than later get to meet a legislator seek some help from the other house the also rans too stand and deliver make it real with Tip O'Neill solitary moves jump the grooves, aloof's a goof show some proof that you're for real not just a creature full of zeal learn to run the commonweal.

Helmut Schmidt is in a twit has a fit: neutron bombs and German missiles gets 'em hopping really sizzles as a plan it surely fizziles whose detererent now belittles tempers burn Bonn fiddles de Gaulle's ghost fairly giggles Britain consummately twiddles burning fat sears the griddles confidence fairly dwindles no nukes for Germany was the plan is all forgiven and forgotten memories are nevermore?

Sound alarms strategic arms you deduce must reduce act obtuse less abstruse do a little ballet russe tip your hat to Genevieve waltz about with Len Brezhnev kiss him embrace him embarrassingly taunt him flaunt him tenderly treat his ego gingerly view his actions cautiously he's prone to conning cunningly, combatively, surreptitiously outrageously generating false alarms succumbing not to presidential charms.

Afghanistan is in Moscow's plan to reconstruct to nip and tuck overthrow the branches prey intervention seems so sexy yet it yields more appoplexy great powers rush to mimicry they really need their own Vietnam? no sense crying in their beer, Afghanistan is in their sphere isn't there a memory here? is there something here to fear? stick it in the president's ear! Kennan blanches at containments' breeches.

Benightedly, fortnightly, learning new lessons, we knew not such actions had such attractions new factions seek bastions for recompense making sense increase funds for national defense off the fence, feeling tense cater to the paranoiacs yielding to right-wing attacks catering to the ever needy metal greedy--it's so seedy liberty is not so tender that we are threatened by Afghanistan's tragedy.

Shah of Shahs Reza Pahlevy lolls about his land of plenty arrayed in such peacock finery descended from Cyrus through the Russian Caucasus such effrontery seems a mockery more a fraudery than laudery raising hackles in Khomeiny firing up the revolutionary jeopardizing modernizing, westernizing, Reza Pahlevy sat on a wall, Reza Pahlevy had a great fall, all the king's forces and American ken couldn't save him yet again.

Khomeiny's meanies mixed a nasty porridge taking people hostage Khomeini in his dotage rattled Carter in his cottage a puppet on a string took a fling helicopters on the wing, embarrassing daunting the "crazies" flaunting their captives haunting faces fill the screens through dinny, din din: jump, Jimmy, jump, see over the hump responding is like paying blackmail don't give in you cannot win they won't quit until Reagan's in.

Thanks to Nixon and Henry K. oil prices soared away inflating everything in sight catching many in the plight giving all a nasty fright shocking from their lethargy panicking on energy queuing up both day and night fearing blockades that never were angering voters evermore choosing Carter nevermore; they were sore that's for sure from Anaheim to Baltimore Carter's image was really sore.

Some glory remains: plot with Sadat break down the walls go to Jerusalem to the Knesset plea for peace, paz, shalom generate some hope at home sow seeds for pacification jubilation elevation of spirits for innovation celebration; consternation awaits, who hesitates may miss the opportunity for fate--this is good! Menahem Begin understood Irgun's compliance guaranteed this is nothing more than seed.

## REAGAN

Reagan was he, Ronald W.: leading Carter to the slaughter with righteous wife and precious daughter harken to the gentle past when we were blessed and safe at last fill our hopes with pleasant chatter Ayatollahs rarely matter beasts and goblins quickly scatter just prepare a gilded platter humbly praise a deity romanticize society pretend paternal piety political porridge masked as ecstasy.

Leave behind Death Valley Days view the past through soupy haze history's not so hard to learn when scripts abound with more to burn so many things explained so neatly creating facts so completely inventively providentially that distance from reality disappears revisions waft upon the mind reflecting idle brains and mindless clatter setting teeth to chatter accuracy doesn't really matter.

Imagination is all the rage commies threaten our age tattle on your fellow actors evil empires still abound so lower taxes liberally borrow build more powerfully build more missiles build more ships focus on those radar blips forget Billy Mitchell, battleships are just the thing they ring the bell, ding-a-ling, seek out Teller; who's remembering his Goeterdaemering or Linus Pauling's surly muttering.

Morning in America sets the scene romantic visions so serene realism is obscene trees pollute yet seemingly green virtual reality is but a dream hocus pocus shift the focus avert the eyes revolutionize subsidize the rich they're so good they sprinkle largesse on the poor, access is an

open door they only want to help the rest; their wealth attests that they are blessed: the greedy are much more needy than the needy are greedy.

It's so obviously fair and debonair each can be a millionaire buckets of gold are everywhere sit upon your cherished throne deregulate savings and loans generate Milliken clones consummate excessive zeal profiteering's really real forgiven loans a real good deal it may seem seedy but elementally, not tangentially the rich will benefit voting heavily they respond so well to unseemly flattery.

Dance a waltz with Maggie Thatcher she's got balls that really matter break the unions clobber labor left-wing hooligans savor, favor responsibilities' waver the welfare state's days are numbered welfare queens proliferate their fate will be to get the gate Mag and Ron salivate seek to set a date to rid western society of the impropriety of soaking the rich polity seek transfers from the old and the poor.

Kennedy set the pace now's your turn in outer space Star War's imaginary forces race to intercept incoming missiles mock encounters fill the screen the photo-ops proliferate unlikely outcomes generate support for flights of fancy so surreal logic has little appeal flim-flam substitutes for real Reaganites express their zeal, knock the doubters on their heel wag the dog reel after reel says it's unreal.

Limitations are a bore pursue the policies you adore kill the commies you abhor keep them distant from our shore cuddle up those Ayatollahs hustle funds to feed the contras sidle up to someone regal worry not if it's illegal sally forth with Ollie North pace a little back and forth legality's not really in mucho macho is our bent surreptitiousness is heaven sent shallow moral scruples can easily be bent.

Flex your muscles set the scenes to Lebanon dispatch Marines bed them down show some pluck who'd a thought a truck full of dynamite would blow them up? to smithereens? hardly out of their teens deflect attention from their screams doesn't take a big armada to occupy Granada we won't be cowed by evil Cuba, fife and drum and raucous tuba save our kids and dry Tortuga play some tunes, a little fuga.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is set to give a great big shove the mighty icons looming above who came before the Djugashvili are set to tumble willy nilly it boggles the mind to comprehend revolution's end is it really true or just pretend will comunism end with a wimper not with a bang smiles replacing bared fangs Gorby Gorby funny guy, will our spirits soar and fly? are you really, really real? is there no ultimate appeal?

Hark to Maggie, Ronnie dear, she thinks the Cold War's end is near hide your worries and your fear welcome Gorby make it clear we wish him well in his endeavor evil empires are'nt forever now he goes to seek out Dubcek strives to set things right heck it's dynamite empathize East German plight reverse course and set things right into the dawn from that dark night, such delight! will we recognize a revolution if it occurs.

Guns and tanks and planes galore don't protect us land and shore if likely strikes weren't de rigeur, megadefense cost megabucks and megadebt breaks megabanks, megabankruptcy hits Moscow early leaving idle Russkies surly we're not immune to hurly burly but something botched on your watch, the biggest lender borrowed more than any who had gone before and megatrouble threatened more the hole we dug can hold our bier.  
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Reaction to old FDR led GOP to bar more terms than two but Ike would win and Ron would too and noone else served even two so harken to the hullabaloo say thanks a lot and toodleloo to Ron and Nancy who fed the dreams that teams of wonks could not undo realism will not do social programs we'll eschew so pull up boots pull up socks socket them docket them; jail house rocks your picked successor alienates flocks.

Put your tush upon a cush turn to ventriloquescient George Bush who called your economics voodoo but became high priest whodo and thought he had a lot to lose so he disavowed the right to choose and sought election causing prexy-apoplexy for the hardest right who feared his choice would be a blight ushering a long fright night no delight, what a sight! who's to lead us out of that dark night?

BUSH

Bush, George W.: Prescott's lad of famous name would face fame and blame remain the same sing Whiffenpoof the sky's the roof a bit of a goof incredibly aloof ideology is best for you many are blessed so choose a few mix them in a frothy brew believing is for those who care whose passions dare show a flare; said Anne the Fair: "Poor George he can't help it, he was born with a silver foot in his mouth!"

Gorbachev proclaims that Poland, Hungary, eastern states must set their pace self-determine time and place with all due speed and passing grace no losing face nor recompense tearing down Hungary's fence masking freedom's emerging scents confounding CIA's precedents; Georgie Porgie this is real temporize unseemly zeal newly developing common weal is challenging the Stalinist deal 1917's no longer real.

The ties that bind will all unravel freeing Dubcek and Vaclav Havel revolutions unforseen cascade upon our video screen megasystems terminate common folk agitate illuminatis contemplate fulminate speculate concentrate while CNN records the fall how to comprehend empires' end, dynastic descent without experiential precedent witnessing each event changes in the firmament -- Oh Gorby, Gorby did you really know?

Cacophony proclaims disorder the New World Order will deliver put some arrows in your quiver no longer face imagined threat so don't you fret hedge your bet worry not the national debt adventures really light up the view old can masquerade as new one term may yet lead to two sharpen up your battle axe let them know you'll never tax; "read my lips"-- regrettable slips intrinsic flips taxes help you launch your ships.

Some things change, don't stay the same walls are tumbling, legerdemain? Cold War's demise kills reprise maintain the bodega feed foes of Ortega say hasta la huega to buddy Noriega don't pension old reliables the public is pliable allies unreliable contrasts reconcilable actions deniable; glorioski the lack of a core need'nt bore harken to the tales of yore serve it up with lots of gore make spirits soar.

To Tokyo to Tokyo to Tokyo over the waves aspirate hesitate trade rates tariff gates challenge you to penetrate anticipate bold endeavors levitate spread things out try slowing up, on ministerial shoes no throwing up botch this now and bets are off put pressure on, alleviate trade deficit rates agitate facilitate don't equivocate defeat growing anti-Jap hate newly found pride can't hide our failure to compete.

Make it plain to Saddam Hussein that in the main he's a pain must refrain desist resist and not persist in grabbing lands making plans picking on poor Kuwait will generate egregious fate forget the build-up in the main that helped prepare Hussein's destructive rain upon the Kuwaiti plain inflicting pain, oh how to explain America's help succor leading to aggressive war; devious dealings evermore?

Iran-contra ever more stretches truth and more forsooth intrinsic lies intrinsic truths dance like mites and wispy sprites clarifying murky sites labyrinths hiding sharks within their mists torrid trysts bedding with such sordid pals lets old friends grouse betrays the house Saddam the Louse agent for American change? are no standards anywhere? in consequence for what we dare? as we sew shall not we reap?

Proslytize sermonize Saddam Hussein defies our guys who realize the need to demonize the prize shall be Saddam's demise he took our cash acted brash grates upon us like a rash show him as the ultimate evil none so bad throughout the years earned such enmity served such fears not

Hitler, Tojo, Geronimo, were so nasty as this Iraqi he's really tacky so set up a grand coalition knock him to perdition.

Off to war Gulf to war hang them bang them evermore smart bombs target skillfully willfully great precision yields derision extol the press we are so blessed barely tested barely stressed we are the best of all the rest worry not the Soviet Union cannot arouse a grand reunion absent them Saddam hangs in the wind Fidel's exposure leads to closure Assad's exposed as abject poseur ten little indians heading for the crapper.

Wars' distractions mask disaffections the public seems to sense the vaunted popularity is shallow your next opponent may not be as fallow jobs are soft as marshmallow twenty nay thirty years unchanged our kids not blessed by better things pink slips floating in the air job security never there pensions grabbed for transient profits middle class is on its ass the wealthy are really the ruling class.

When the economy is in the dumps prexies have to take their lumps Willy Horton's not around chase Georgie Porgie to the ground; Ronnie and the preppie prexie nurtured the rich, the fat, the greedy showed little concern for the lowly needy thought the poor rather seedy relieve the rich of taxing burdens they earn because they're so deserving favored by God and the tax code: the greedy are so much more needy than the needy are greedy.

#### EPILOGUE

Sounding like an old time train yet feeling their pain in the main with a dash of legerdemain, William Jefferson (Bill) Clinton acknowledged the Cold War's demise knew no reprise railed to the wise the problems facing the polity were routed in the economy starved of R & D through military preoccupe he stressed to the dull and lucid, "IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID!" the Cold War was over for all to see.

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