

Party Games

Here's some opinion I'll share with you
Now that I'm eighty and going on more
Just a few observations I believe to be true
(Oh I know, you've no doubt heard them before)

We seniors are prone to supposing we're wise
So if you'll excuse this amateur verse
Some reflections on politics I'll now verbalize
(While skipping the others—they're even worse!)

Our two-party system may seem really great
Instead of tough questions and lengthy debates
With so many strange names on each ballot slate
Just vote for your party and ignore candidates

With parents and friends in all the same boat
As to which of the parties to keep in power
The very first time that I marched in to vote
The choice was easy and I marked *Eisenhower*

It seemed to make sense to us then, looking back
To keep our great country independent and strong
Being prepared for a Khrushchev sneak rocket attack
In God place our trust, the commie ways wrong

And so federal affairs never troubled our thoughts
As long as our liberty we kept on preserving
And electing "conservatives" if we knew them or not
Or even what it was that they were conserving

But then things started getting way out of hand
With Birchers and all their subversives lists
And hunting "red agents" from his Senate bandstand
By "Tail Gunner Joe" (who I'm sure won't be missed)

Then along came our farm life with tractor and hoe
Country fairs, wood-crafting, folk-fiddling and dancing
And as our circle of friendships continued to grow
Came a sense that our outlook could use some enhancing

But on top of all that came the Vietnam disaster
Where we found ourselves split in two down the middle
Some said: *End it right now!* Others: *Bomb even faster!*
And trying to make sense of it all was a riddle

But alas, now eclipsed by more recent invasions
 Ill-considered at best, but even worse still
Forcing captives to talk by tortured persuasion
 (If that doesn't stir us then I wonder what will!)

By then, as the need was so clearly for change
 Waterboarding and murder the very last straw
Along comes a new leader who vows to engage
 In withdrawing our troops and prosecuting by law

Well, here we are waiting, and if his party can't manage
 To do more that was promised, as we were all told
Then things swing right back to the Right-Wing advantage
 'Cause as usual, you see, we're once again oversold!

So just what, you may ask, is the point of this all
 The problems are clear, but where's the solution?
Blind faith in the parties is what leads to downfall
 They're not even mentioned in our Constitution!

Where this loyalty comes from is not hard to see
 Looking all the way back many thousands of years
When we banded together to wage war mutually
 Brandishing sticks and stones, arrows and spears

Well I guess it's still there, deep down in our genes
 This joining together when picking a fight
Even in Congress where it seems quite obscene
 While in voters, of course, it just adds to our plight

We've even gone so far as to promote it as sports
 Two teams locked in battle, how we cheer just *our own*
As we thrill at the TV's bloody warfare of sorts
 If a peace-loving people, then explain why thus prone?

As I warned at the start, you've heard it before
 My tirade against parties and the perversion of "sport"
I'm so tired of repeating, I will not anymore
 And I'll let this now stand as my final report

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