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November 3, 2019 | Log Cabin Democrat (Conway, AR) | Joe McGarrity - Economics professor

Everyone in high profile leadership positions will face difficult times. This goes for CEOs of large companies and for the president of the United States. During these tough times, a leader hopes to be able to count on the people that he or she has worked with and who might have a say over the leader's fate.

Donald Trump may be on the verge of facing one of these tough times. The House will probably end up impeaching him. To impeach the president, the House needs a simple majority of its members to vote against the president. Since the democrats have a majority in the House, this vote will likely go against the president.

If the House does pass articles of impeachment, the action moves to the Senate, which will hold a trial. If two-thirds of the senators vote to remove the president, we will all be calling the current vice president Mr. President.

Unless more information comes out, the president will probably be able to weather this political storm and remain in office. However, if more damning information comes out and some republicans decide to break ranks and vote against the president on the merits of the case, Trump will be in trouble. He is in trouble because he has not built much goodwill among the republican senators.

Instead, Trump has a habit of insulting people. Consider his interactions with some of the current republican senators that will probably be voting on whether Trump should remain president. Trump disparaged Marco Rubio by calling him Little Marco. He insulted Ted Cruz's family and called him Lyin' Ted. He said Mitt Romney never knew how to win and Trump called him a pompous ass. He also said that Rand Paul was truly weird.

Keep in mind that these insults were all hurled at republicans, senators who would have been inclined to support a president in their own party. My psychologist friends inform me that people often hold grudges. Consider the case where the senate trial proceeds and the backroom vote counters find that Trump is on the margin of being removed from office and that the four senators I mentioned above can remove Trump if they vote against him. If the Senate vote gets that close, I think Trump is in trouble and will be removed.

If this all plays out the way I have described it, then it will be evidence that our moms had it correct back in the days when we were all in kindergarten. When our moms' said good manners matter, they were imparting very good advice. I do want to throw out a final caveat. I think that the four senators I mentioned will only vote against the president if their votes will determine the outcome of the trial. If the articles of impeachment will be easily defeated in the Senate, these senators will not bother going against a member of their party for personal reasons.

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