

Editorial

A Sympathetic, Well-meaning, Elderly Man with A Poor Memory

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



Although president Biden has been maligned for being old, forgetful and sometimes inept, he has earned some feathers to his cap. Here are some examples. The House G.O.P.'s effort to tar him with the actions of his son Hunter haven't succeeded; the economy is powering ahead; economic sentiment is improving; and the stock market is doing so

well that Trump is trying to claim credit for it. All said and done, presidential elections are mostly decided on the state of the economy. The U.S. economy is robust. Its GDP in 2023 grew by 2.5% and inflation dropped to 3.2% in the last quarter. This goes in favor of Mr. Biden.

However, there are some damaging reports and incidents that shade doubts about his

ability to be the CEO of the U.S., Inc. The recent report from Special Counsel Robert Hur describes him being too old and too out of it to be prosecuted for keeping classified documents in his personal garage. Biden, 81, is described forgetting when his term as vice president ended, the general timeframe in which his son Beau died from cancer, and the details of critical foreign policy debates during the Obama administration. Later the president said, “Frankly, when I was asked the question I thought to myself, it wasn’t any of their damn business. ... I don’t need anyone to remind me when he passed away.”

The worst of all he called a press conference to defend his mental acuity when he misidentified the president of Egypt as the president of Mexico. "As you know, initially, the president of Mexico, el-Sisi did not want to open up the gate to allow humanitarian material to get in. I talked to him. I convinced him to open the gate, said Biden," However, Jean-Pierre, Biden’s press secretary dismissed concerns about Biden’s misstatements, noting recent instances when House Speaker Mike Johnson mistook Iran for Israel and Fox News host Sean Hannity confused former Representative Jason Chaffetz for Matt Gaetz.

“Many people, they can misspeak sometimes,” Jean-Pierre said.

Joe Biden is very sensitive about people doubting his mental alertness. He seems agitated with that label. When Fox News reporter Peter Doocy, who often gives the president a hard time, asked, “How bad is your memory?” Biden shot back, “My memory is so bad I let you speak. One time on a previous occasion he called him an SOB.

That’s the dilemma in front of the American voters. They, most probably, will have to choose between a twice impeached ex-president and a blundering sitting one.