

The Mad Corruptions of Trump Inc.

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Where's Shakespeare when we need him? Only the Bard of Avon could do literary justice to the tortured madness of Donald Trump, who fluctuates between petulant self-pity and weird self-praise.

His brags are especially weird because they usually involve achievements he hasn't made. It's as though his saying something makes it true — even though everyone except his most naive devotees can clearly see that he's either hallucinating or lying.

In June, for example, at a rally launching his reelection campaign, he re trumpeted an old campaign promise to “drain the swamp,” assuring the adoring crowd that “that's exactly what we're doing right now.” Trump gilded the lie with this beauty: “We stared down the unholy alliance of lobbyists and donors and special interests.”

In fact, he brought that entire unholy alliance directly into the White House, the cabinet and every agency to create a corrupt government of, by and for corporate plunderers. At least 230 corporate lobbyists have come inside the Trump Inc. administration. He also opened a luxury hotel right in the center of the swamp, just four blocks from the White House, so he and his family can extract high-dollar hotel payments from special-interest lobbyists wanting favors from the Trump regime of swamp critters.

But wait ... didn't The Donald make his political hires sign an ethics pledge agreeing not to lobby the agencies where they work until five years after they leave? Yes, but remember, Trump is a master at the Art of the Loophole, and his “pledge” provides ample room for an invasion of weasels, including an exception allowing former officials to lobby on agency rule-making. Do they think we have sucker wrappers around our heads? Rule-making is what agencies do! So, this gaping loophole frees Trump officials to sell their insider influence to corporate interests wanting to rig the rules against you and me.

At Trump's vainglorious campaign rally, he also declared that “nobody has done what we have done in 2 1/2 years.” Sadly, that's the truest thing he's said.

News Alert! News Alert! This just in: Donald Trump has discovered homelessness in America.

News Update! News Update! Donald Trump says he has the solution to homelessness in America, points out that he's already ended homelessness in Washington, D.C.

Once again, we can thank Fox News for its in-depth reporting, going deep into the furrows of Trump's mind to dig out this startling presidential insight and achievement.

In a June interview by Fox TV sparklie Tucker Carlson, the president of the United States

articulated his concern about so many Americans' now living on the streets. Homelessness is "a phenomenon that started two years ago," Trump explained to the clueless Carlson, calling the problem "sad." Our billionaire president showed his usual grasp of history and social awareness by adding, "We never had this in our lives before in this country."

Oddly, the Fox Man let this go without questioning it. Maybe he was dazzled by Trump's next observation, analyzing why people live in the street: "Perhaps they like living that way," posited our presidential son of privilege.

Whatever. The Donald proceeded to declare that it's intolerable to have such homelessness in our rich country — not because so many poor people are suffering, but because businesspeople and shoppers face the indignity of having to walk past the homeless to get to their offices, banks, cafes, etc. As Tucker beamed credulously, Trump proceeded to offer his solution: simply outlaw *those people* from cluttering our sidewalks and streets. Then, The Donald royally declared that he "may intercede ... to get that whole thing cleaned up."

Indeed, he claims he's tidied up homelessness before: "I had a situation when I first became president. We had certain areas of Washington, D.C, where (homelessness) was starting to happen. I ended it very quickly. I said, 'You can't do that.'" After all, Trump explained to the obtuse Fox interviewer, "When you have leaders of the world coming to see the president ... they can't be looking at that."

It's one thing to have a president who thinks "Out of sight; out of mind" should be an actual public policy. It's another thing to have a president who's clearly out of his mind.

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Populist author, public speaker and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes "The Hightower Lowdown," a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

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