## The Liar

*by* Phil Rasmussen

"A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on."

Unknown

Often attributed to Winston Churchill, the above quote, whose origin is unknown, in its many versions not only holds an element of truth but in fact, is true.

The word "lie" is pretty powerful word. It implies intent, and in many cases those perpetrating the lie just don't understand the topic. What is bothersome is that the lies and inaccuracies continue to be repeated decades later.

Changing the minds of people whose opinions are not based on actual facts tends to be the hardest, because their beliefs are rooted in their prejudices and emotions as opposed to reality. For some, it does not matter what facts are presented nothing would ever make them budge from their stubborn position. In many cases they would prefer to believe the lie than face the truth.

While Democrats have many reasons to dislike Trump, one major reason is that they believe Trump is in league with the leaders of America's adversaries (often called the "Axis of Upheaval"). They belief is based on Trump's references to these leaders as, "My friend, \_\_\_\_\_ . . . " The problem is that Democrats fail to understand why Trump refers to these leaders as "friends."

Trump's background is the business and economic world and not the political environment. Trump is a graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Wharton is considered a world-class business school and includes the study of Sun Tzu's "Art of War" along with other well-recognized military, business, and economic texts in its curricula. Sun Tzu was important because ti taught Trump how to deal with his competitors and eventually as president, our enemies.

Although incorrectly attributed to Sun Tzu, in 1974, Michael Corleone (a character in The Godfather Part II) said, ". . . keep your friends close but your enemies closer. . ."

In <u>Chapter 3 §18</u>, Sun Tzu wrote: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle." In essence Corleone's statement is a simplification of this Sun Tzu's lesson. By referring to these axis leaders as friends, Trump knows the enemies, and is keeping them close.

On the other hand, with his tenure as Vice President and President, Biden conspicuously lied to the American public. The liberal media propagandized these lies and foisted them on the public as truth. However, like all lies, the truth eventually surfaces.

According to <u>POLITIFACT</u>, Biden told the truth about 13% of the time and around 24% of the time made mostly true statements. The remaining 63% of statements he made consisted mostly of falsehoods or outright lies.

Biden's latest lie revolves around his son, Hunter, convicted of several crimes. During the investigation and trial of Hunter Biden, Joe Biden was often asked if he would pardon Hunter. With each time, his response was a resounding "No." Yet on December 1st, Biden announced that he had signed a full and unconditional pardon for his son, Hunter. In other words, Joe Biden, who staunchly said he would not pardon Hunter, lied and then did so.

The grant of clemency has to be approved by the judges involved in Hunter's cases. This is typically a rubber stamp process; however there are some problems with the pardon. While the pardon was explicit for the tax and gun cases, it also gave pardon for any potential federal crimes that Hunter may have committed between 2014 and 2024.

Hunter's pardon creates two problems. First, is how could he be pardoned for crimes not yet defined. For example, if Hunter had murdered someone and years later DNA and other evidence was found proving he was the murderer, would the pardon mean that he was untouchable and could not be tried?

Second, the pardon also means that Hunter cannot plead the 5th if he is called before Congress or a grand jury to testify about his business interests or congressional investigation of his father.

Regardless of the fallout of Hunter's pardon, it cannot be rescinded. A presidential pardon can <u>ONLY</u> be granted for crimes committed against the United States, meaning only federal offenses. It is still possible that Hunter can be charged and convicted of

violating state firearm laws since he purchased a firearm while being an illegal drug user. Additionally he is open to possible prosecution by foreign nations such as Ukraine and China.

While the presidential pardon has been used in the past to pardon friends, allies and relatives, this is the first instance that a pardon has been granted to a direct family member. The outrage that Biden's pardon has created could force legislation restricting who can or cannot be pardoned by the president.

<u>Jeffrey Crouch</u>, a leading expert on pardons, calls Biden's pardon of Hunter, "an abuse of the clemency power." He further stated that "Presidents should not use clemency to help out their friends, family and allies in order to further their own personal interest."

## Article II, Section 2, Clause 1.3.1

The President, . . . shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

**United States Constitution**