



# Secession Election

An Amigo Story Spectrum

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## LEFTY LOOSEY

From the small, make-shift stage, you can hear the shouts in violent unison, "Hold the state! Hold the state! Hold the state!"

A skinny, 30 year-old woman wearing khakis grabs the microphone off the podium and listens as the shouts bounce above the placards and hand-written signs. The microphone squeals its introduction and she screams, "I am here to remind you of one thing. I am here to remind you of unity!"

A roar shakes the tiny auditorium that used to be an airplane hangar.

"Unity brings strength in the face of those who wish us be gone! Unity brings power that makes our state the catalyst for revolution throughout the nation! Unity brings hope! And, yes, unity ushers in the future!"

Her fist punches through the air, prodding the chorus to reprise, "Hold the state! Hold the state! Hold the state!"

She takes a deep breath before turning to someone stage left and shouting some camera directions with the mic hanging at her side. She walks to the edge of the stage and looks over the crowd. She lifts the microphone to her lips and whispers, "The bigots are trying to rip our unity apart. They've concocted a plan so devious and a conspiracy so effective as to use our virtue, our ideals against us. Our society is not at the mercy of their corruption! Is it?"

"No!"

"They lie. Our future, our future progress does not, it cannot exist away from the nation as a whole. We can change a nation, so long as we are part of it."

Here, a tear (or maybe it's a bead of sweat) inched down her cheek.

"But, to use the present crosses and double-crosses of the government as an excuse to tear us apart will kill off every good thing we've accomplished over the last 50 years."

She looks out at the signs, these messages of solidarity, holding out hope that the polls are wrong; even as her words ring hollow in her ears.

## **LIBERTINE**

Subject: STUDENT ACTION LEAGUE needs You!!!

>>>Are you 18? Do you have parents? Do you know anyone at all?

>Then we need you! Your state needs you! You need your state!

>>>

>>>Fight the abandonment movement!

>Vote "NO" on Referendum 3232!

>>>

>>>

>>>Keep our progress moving forward and don't let them redefine

>the freedoms you have! There is still time to make your voice

>heard! Vote! Get your friends and family to vote! We need

>registrars! We need passionate speakers and street team leaders!

>Spread the truth about secession!

>>>

>>>

>>>Respond to this e-mail for connection points to sync up with.

>>>What they don't want you to know...

>Leaving the union will NOT stop the corruption that's been siphoning

>from our schools and utilities! Our state economy will falter!

>Civil rights will be set back decades!

>>>

>>>

>>>Do not let your disgust for the past mistakes of our nation

>hurt this great state you call home! This is still our nation!

## **BLUE PARTIER**

MODERATOR: Senator Smith, this question is yours and it comes to us from a Ms. Barbara Wally from New Park Pavilion. She asks, "How does your stance on the secession referendum protect the state's best interests in light of the federal government's fiscal mishandling?"

SMITH: What a perceptive question. Thank you Barbara for your question and for your very participation in this town hall discussion, this debate, indeed, this grand display of good ol' fashioned democracy. I believe in the need to protect our state. But, and I'm sure, um, I am sure you would agree that if we protect our nation, we protect our state. These are not mutually exclusive agendas.

MODERATOR: Citizen Jones? Your rebuttal?

JONES: With all due respect to the senator and his friends in Congress who, dare I say, are responsible for the budget collapse and the siphoning of our state's treasury...I would expect nothing less than his placating the status quo. Sometimes, doing the courageous thing means leaving.

SMITH: But, most of the time, sir, it means holding on to your obligations and giving the process time to work!

## **WESTERN MOD**

JOURNALIST: You've put forth a compelling argument for re-framing the secession discussion.

INTERVIEWEE: Well, the argument is on the wrong page altogether.

J: Describe what you mean.

I: Well, it's not an either/or, is it? I mean, does the citizenry honestly buy into the belief that we can fix all that has been broken by renaming ourselves and pretending we're a different country? Are all these problems going to be resolved by governing ourselves locally?

J: Isn't that the spirit of democracy?

I: Hold on, hold on, okay? I'm not finished answering your question. See, that's part of the problem right there. Why are we so rash? Why are we so quick to pull out? We only ratified our state's entry a few years ago... Let me tell you why. Here's why. It can all be explained by a lack of faith.

J: Is this really a religious matter?

I: No, I don't mean religion. I mean faith in democracy. Democracy is living, it's breathing. There's not "this" or "that," "old" or "new," "right" or "left." It's a pool of all of us pushing our ideas up against conflicting ideas in an unsynchronized swim. None of them are left the same after their intermingling. It's a pool, it's a river.

J: You're losing me here.

I: Democracy is a pull, a pulling together of ideas, good and bad and in between. It's not a matter of secession. This is a battle over how quickly we're apt to give up our freedom!

J: And you believe secession negates our freedom?

I: Secession is our tearing away. It's not only about us leaving the other states... We were only too willing to send our sons and daughters into combat to fight for our compatriot states; but, now we're willing to leave them? But, it's not about that really. It's about changing who we are and what we believe in. That is something we should just not accept.

## **EASTERN MOD**

This teacher drones on, long after his students flip the switch of their attention. Yet, here he goes, turning the power-point slide to the next and talking, still talking, "...of course, voting to secede is a difficult decision. But, the ramifications of passing this referendum are not nearly as dire as the pundits predict. First of all, just because the only occasion such action has been taken resulted in a brutal war between brothers does not, in and of itself, mean that will be the case this time around. Change can and does occur. History does not always repeat itself."

Rolling three pieces of chalk in the palm of his hand, he walks up and down the steps of the auditorium. "There was a reason secession failed, after all. They left for the wrong reasons, last time around. I ask you, you bright minds of mush, those of whom I hope and imagine have been following recent events as closely as you should; do we not have perfectly valid and honorable reasons to sever the hastily-made ties of federal union and stop the bleeding?"

By now, he he's back at the front of the room. With full knowledge of his dwindling audience, he slams his hands down upon his desk, crushing the chalk into dust and reflexively cringing at the pain in his right hand. A classroom of wide eyes wakes up.

"There is a reason the secession clause was written into our constitution! Today, that reason has been made manifest. It's not an option any of us want to take lightly. But, it is the only appropriate course available to us." With this, he pulls out his chair and sits.

## **RED PARTIER**

PICTURE: A desert. One dying cactus. Tumbleweed.

VOICE: The deadwood federals believe this is the best our state has to look forward to. They're willing to let our state continue to suffer at the hands of politicians who would take advantage of our natural resources.

PICTURE: A tree-lined street. A well-kept neighborhood. Energy. Commerce.

VOICE: But, your life doesn't have to end that way. Vote "Yes" on Referendum 3232 and create a new future for your state.

PICTURE: A tech-savvy schoolhouse. Students reading, typing studiously. All smiles.

VOICE: Why tie our dreams to a sinking ship?

PICTURE: An open park. Birds. Squirrels. The young playing near the old. A couple – smiling and strong – turn to the camera and speak together, with conviction.

VOICE: "We said 'Yes' to a new beginning. We voted 'Yes' on Referendum 3232."

PICTURE: The state flag, flying proudly.

VOICE: Paid for by TheTrueBelieversInANewBeginningCoalitionPAC.

## **CONSERVATOR**

HOST: Alright, we have...John from Sussex. You're on the air.

CALLER: Okay, I normally agree with you, most of the time. Most of the time we're on the same page. But, I can't believe the things you're saying today.

HOST: So, can I take it that you do not, at present, agree with me?

CALLER: You're out of your mind if you think secession will change a single thing. What? Are we gonna magically have a state budget transfusion? You think people are gonna flock to a non-union state which will probably face a war for sovereignty at the get-go, on top of whatever—whatever happens next, we'll still be broke, depleted—

HOST: John, John, John...calm down, John. Listen to me and listen to some reason.

CALLER: I just can't understand—

HOST: So, then let me help you understand. Not only can we take back our state and put things right, by ourselves, now – by ourselves, we can become a more vibrant and winsome state than we have ever been...and we'll no longer be carrying around the heavy chains of federal bondage.

CALLER: That's wishful thinking.

HOST: John, let me send you a copy of my book – LOGICAL THREATS – now in paperback. Read it a few times and you'll come around.

## **RIGHTY TIGHTY**

1: You realize they'll never pass this thing.

2: That's crazy talk. With all the money we've put into the campaign? It'll pass in a landslide.

1: I just don't think we can overcome the inertia, that's all. There's just too much cynicism out there.

2: You got anything to drink?

1: Mmm. Yeah. Sit and drink, my friend.

2: That sounds good.

1: I think you're too optimistic.

2: We have all the reason in the world to believe. Reason is on our side. We've laid out the message as clear as, as clear as this glass.

1: All I'm saying is 2/3 majority. Two-thirds majority doesn't seriously take reason into the equation at all. They don't believe in our utopia.

2: You want some?

1: No, it's too early for me.

2: Let me ask you this, and after you answer, then you can call me an optimist or a pessimist or a fool, I don't care, okay?

1: Mmm. Say what you need to say.

2: If everything in your life turned out like the pre-washed backend of a Democratic mascot and someone offered you a one-chance, golden ticket, guaranteed, no-pain-all-gain escape hatch with the only cost being your simple pledge of allegiance – let's say this was the case...in your own life now – inertia or momentum, who cares...what would you say to the chance to wipe the slate clean and start again?

1: I'd say "yes." I'd say get me out yesterday.

2: And on a grander scale, you would vote to secede.

1: No. Okay, I would. Sure. But, we...as a state...*we* would not vote to secede.

2: Why is that?

1: People rarely vote the way they really live.

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