**Compromise**

**Charlie: “Say, Brutus, wasn't yesterday your anniversary?” Brutus: “That's right, Charlie!” Charlie: “How did you and Gladys celebrate?” Brutus: “Well, I wanted to go to a steak house for dinner, then see a movie. But Gladys wanted Italian and the Ballet!” Charlie: “Gee, how'd you work that out?” Brutus: “Well, you see, our relationship is built on mutual give and take, respect and understanding -- so we compromised. We went for Italian and the Ballet!” *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**The delegates themselves had to deal with precisely this question of power. The Constitution itself has been called a “bundle of compromises.” And, indeed, that’s what it was – a series of compromises hammered out between delegates of opposing views, differing constituencies and various power interests. *(Paul Kroll, in Plain Truth magazine)***

**Nelson: “I have a question. How come we’re camping in a hotel room instead of outside in the woods?” Dad: “Well, it’s called compromise, Nelson. You and I wanted to go camping, and Mom didn’t. So, what did we do? We compromised, didn’t we? And here we are.” Nelson: “I have another question. How long does it take to roast a marshmallow over a flashlight?” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Compromise is simply changing the question to fit the answer. *(Merrit Malloy, in Things I Meant to Say to You When We Were Old)***

**Compromise used to mean that half a loaf was better than no bread. Among modern statesmen, it really seems to mean that half a loaf is better than a whole loaf. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**“I had rather be right than be president,” Henry Clay once said. Good thing, because despite 20 years of trying, he never ascended to the White House. Known as “The Great Compromise,” Clay worked in earnest to keep the nation from decaying into civil war, but he needed presidential clout to put his plan into action. When an antislavery candidate in New York split the state’s votes in 1844, Clay lost a very close election to James Knox Polk. As a result, the federal government continued to focus more on westward expansion than on healing the nation, so the chasm between North and South grew. *(Sandy Wood, in Tidbits)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The summer was uncomfortably hot. Window blinds offered some protection from the sun but the delegates were frequently uncomfortable in their close-fitting clothes and wigs. When the windows were shut to reduce the outside noise, the air became oppressive; when they were opened, flies buzzed in.” Perhaps the stifling Philadelphia summer of 1787 was what the 55 men from 12 states needed to forge the **Constitution**. At the beginning, diverse opinions threatened to scuttle the convention. The smaller states were jealous of the larger ones, the South distrusted the North, great property owners thought differently than merchants. The 55 men met and argued, then raged some more until -- on July 16, 1787 -- they struck the “Great Compromise,” which set up equal representation for each state in the Senate, and representation by population in the House of Representatives. After the compromise, it was a relatively speedy trip on the road to completing the Constitution. (Michael Carlton, in Denver Post)**

**It was a hot September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the State House, 39 delegates were signing their names to a document that is now the oldest and most successful written national constitution in force. On that day, 81-year-old Benjamin Franklin – inventor, writer, politician, savant – spoke his feelings about the revolutionary new document. “Mr. President, I confess that there are several parts of this Constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them. Thus I consent, sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure it is not the best.” *(Paul Kroll, in The Plain Truth magazine)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

**Compromise is the art of dividing a cake so that everybody believes he or she got the biggest piece. *(Ludwig Erhard, in The Observer, London)***

**Don’t compromise, even if it hurts to be yourself. *(Toby Keith)***

**Few things are accomplished without compromise. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**When the final result is expected to be a compromise, it is often prudent to start from an extreme position. *(John Maynard Keynes)***

**Enlightened Anglers: Two guys were out fishing, when one says to the other, “Last week, I caught a 3-foot trout right here.” The other fisherman responds, “Last week, I hooked a lantern right here and it was still burning.” “Why don’t you at least tell a story that’s halfway believable?” asks the first. “Okay,” says the second. “You knock 2 feet off your trout and I’ll blow out the lantern.” *(Don Ford, in Reminisce magazine)***

One nation, bitterly divided: Barack Obama first emerged as a star in 2004 when he called on the nation to unite and declared, “There’s not a liberal America and a conservative America. There’s the United States of America.” But in this year’s presidential campaign, said Charles Lane, a battle-scarred Obama offered no hope of unity but what he called “a choice between two fundamentally different visions for America.” Romney, his attack ads said, was “not one of us.” What went wrong? Simply put, Obama discovered he’d been naïve: “Americans were deeply divided then, and they are, if anything, more deeply divided now.” There are two Americas, with conflicting value systems and deep contempt for each other. Even a charismatic president, Obama found, could not “transform that dynamic, or even resist it.” The divide remains, and in coming years, neither party will be able to impose its agenda on deficits, spending, taxes, entitlements, and social issues. The only way to address these problems is through the kind of “Great Compromises” forged in our nation’s early history, with both liberals and conservatives making painful concessions. The alternative is continued division – and paralysis. *(The Week magazine, November 16, 2012)*

**Ethel: “How’d the interview go?” Willy: “We’re in the process of negotiating terms. They want me to start Monday for nine dollars an hour, and I want to block the whole experience from my mind through hypnosis or electroshock therapy.” *(Joe Martin, in Willy ‘N’ Ethel comic strip)***

**Don’t compromise yourself. You are all you’ve got. *(Janis Joplin)***

**Ted Kennedy was a master compromiser, collaborating with Republicans to pass legislation. He teamed with President George W. Bush on No Child Left Behind, Sen. John McCain on immigration reform, and Sen. Robert Dole on the Americans With Disabilities Act. By the time he died last week of brain cancer, his “achievements, authority, and collegiality invited comparisons to Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and other titans” of the Senate. *(The Week magazine, September 11, 2009)***

**Man says to the dog: “Look, Hemingway. Let’s be clear about one thing. Tonight, you’re sleeping in your own bed. As the dog goes up on the bed and the man makes his bed on the floor, the man says: “They say that life is a series of compromises.” *(Drew Litton, in Duncan’s Dilemma comic strip)***

**People are usually willing to meet each other half way; trouble is, most people are poor judges of distance. *(Toastmaster)***

**Hagar: “When I was young I wanted fame and fortune! Now that I’m more mature, I realize you have to compromise. Now I just want fortune!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**65% of Americans believe President Obama will make a sincere effort to compromise with Republicans and create bipartisan solutions to the nation’s problems. 48% say they think congressional Republicans will be willing to compromise. *(Gallup Poll, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 30, 2012)***

**Willy says to a friend: “Ethel wanted me to do all the odd jobs around the house and I wanted to stuff my face in front of the T.V. So we came up with a compromise: Chocolate tools.” *(Joe Martin, in Willy ‘N’ Ethel comic strip)***

**The story is told that George Pullman, designer of the sleeping car, engaged an architect named Solon Beaman to lay out a model town for Pullman’s employees. When the project was completed, the architect wanted the town to bear his name. Pullman didn’t see it that way. “Let’s compromise,” he suggested. “We’ll use the first part of my name and the last part of yours.” And that’s how the town of Pullman, Illinois – now part of Chicago – got its name. *(Quoted in Toledo Blade)***

**A little over a century ago Theodore Roosevelt faced a crisis that could have cost thousands of lives. Coal miners in Pennsylvania were striking as a cold winter approached. In negotiating an agreement between labor and management Roosevelt had to betray his party and big business loyalties for the good of the people. Roosevelt knew that compromise and leadership were the only things that would heat homes along the eastern seaboard. *(David Kaufman, in Boulder Daily Camera)***

**Compromise, if not the spice of life, is its solidity. It is what makes nations great and marriages happy. *(Phyllis McGinley, poet)***

**In our model GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) class at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, we were being graded on a day’s worth of simulated negotiations. By late afternoon, with time running out, all the delegates were looking for a compromise. Finally, the students representing Thailand leaned over to the fraternity man representing Nigeria. “Okay,” she said, “Here’s the deal. If you don’t tax my exports, I’ll let you take me to the homecoming game.” *(Zubin Avari, in Reader’s Digest)***

**60% of Americans approve of the tax-cut deal President Obama reached with congressional Republicans, while 22% disapprove. There is virtually no partisan difference in opinion about the compromise, with 63% of Democrats, 62% of Republicans, and 60% of independents saying they support the tax cuts. *(Pew Research Center, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 24, 2010 – January 7, 2011)***

**If you just set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time and you would achieve nothing. *(Margaret Thatcher)***

**In my graduate course in guidance and counseling, a guest psychologist gave a personal example of how to negotiate. When it was time to buy a new car, he explained, he wanted a Jeep and his wife wanted a Lincoln Town Car. After a rational give-and-take discussion, they finally reached a compromise. “So,” one student asked, “what color is your Town Car?” “Maroon,” he replied. *(E. A. Garza, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When emancipation came, young Booker T. Washington, born a slave in 1856, desperately wanted an education. However, his impoverished family needed him to work and bring home an income. They reached a compromise. Booker got a job packing salt into barrels and worked from four A.M. until nine a.m. Then he went to school, after which he returned to the salt mine and worked for another two hours. *(John & Claire Whitcomb, in Oh Say Can You See, p. 148)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***