**Levity Warranted – Quixote in the White House? –** “*Oh, say can you see"—what exactly?*

Now after the hastily brokered 30-day ceasefire, Canadians and Americans alike are left squinting into the fog of trade war rhetoric, struggling to discern the real threat justifying U.S. tariffs against Canada. The Star-Spangled Banner still waves, but with it rises a gale of confusion. From the Oval Office, a figure stands, tilting at invisible foes—whipped into a frenzy by the manufactured storm—while his ever-loyal squire, Elon Musk, scurries through the halls of government, slashing at waste with one hand and sketching blueprints for Mars with the other.

It is not a stretch to draw comparisons between the 47th President of the United States and Miguel de Cervantes’ famous Don Quixote, both determined to combat imaginary adversaries. Quixote saw giants where there were only windmills; Trump sees economic betrayal where there is only interdependence. Musk, like Sancho Panza, is both a believer and a realist, indulging his master’s crusades while keeping an eye on the next great conquest—be it bureaucratic bloat or a Martian colony.

**The Phantom Menace: Canada's "Threat" to the U.S.** According to the administration, the new tariffs are a necessary response to a Canadian menace that remains, at best, elusive. Trump’s list of grievances reads like an avant-garde play where logic takes a back seat – mostly just dramatic flourish:

* **Illegal immigration and drug trafficking**? Despite little evidence of a serious flow of fentynal from Canada, the President has cast the northern border as a conduit of nefarious crossings. Regardless, Canada has titled to increasing border security and appointing a Fentanyl Czar
* **A flood of Canadian cars into the U.S.?** Canada exported in 2022 $27B of new cars to the US and imported $17B. Not quite a flood.
* **Prohibiting U.S. banks from operating in Canada**? In reality, half of the foreign banks operating in Canada are American, thriving under its stable financial rregulations.
* **A trade imbalance interpreted as a U.S. subsidy of Canada**? The $200 billion imbalance, cited by Trump as proof of Canadian freeloading, is, in fact, a reflection of American demand for Canadian resources—fueling over 8-million U.S. manufacturing jobs.

What next?  We wait for the administration’s frustrations to turn to the weather - a moment of unintended comedy. Yes, Canadian rogue cold fronts singled out as a “low-cost defense system” responsible for forcing the President's inauguration ceremony indoors—a meteorological conspiracy, if ever there was one.

**Tariffs as Tribute? The 51st State Gambit.** Amid this confusion, whispers swirl of a grander scheme—one not merely about tariffs, trade deficits, or border security. Some suspect Trump’s endgame is annexation, a reimagining of the Manifest Destiny doctrine in which Canada, piece by piece, becomes America’s 51st state. Whether through coercion or incentive, the administration’s strategy raises the bizarre yet persistent question: Does Trump believe he can offer each Canadian province statehood, swapping Premiers for Governors, Parliament for Congress?

The sheer audacity of such a notion would be amusing were it not for the gravity of the deteriorating relationship between two historically close allies. Canada is not merely an economic partner but an integral thread in the North American fabric—woven through military alliances, shared cultural values, and economic ties that benefit both nations. To turn on Canada with Quixotic fervor is to battle ghosts while ignoring the very real specter of the U.S.’s $42 trillion national debt, the very crisis these tariffs were allegedly designed to mitigate.

**And the Rocket Man Watched.** As this drama unfolds, Musk—ever the vigilant Sancho—moves through the corridors of power, his mission twofold. With one eye, he scours government spending for inefficiency, championing reforms that promise to streamline bloated agencies. With the other, he gazes skyward, charting an escape route to the Red Planet, perhaps sensing that Earthly governance is a lost cause.

The anthem asks, “O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave?” Indeed, it does. But in which direction it flutters—toward reason or further into the realm of the absurd. We watch. We wait. Less than 30-days to go. And Canada, less polite, more perplexed, has been shaken.  More unified, committed to resolving long-overdue economic issues impeding internal trade including pipeline construction plus attacking suspected fentanyl production, increasing defense of all borders, and preparing for a leadership change. - Editor