

White House Wit



by Paul Steiner

William E. Curtis said of Thomas Jefferson: "He was without a sense of humor. He rarely told a story and seldom enjoyed one; and witticisms were wasted in his presence." Other chief executives, however, had quite a sense of humor, as note:



Abraham Lincoln: "If this is coffee, please bring me some tea; but if this is tea, please bring me some coffee." "When you've got an elephant by the hind legs and he's trying to run away, it's best to let him run."

Dwight D. Eisenhower: "An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." "A radical is a man with both feet firmly planted in the air."



Calvin Coolidge: "If you don't say anything, you won't be called on to repeat it."

George Washington: When some lagging members of the Congress came late and dinner was not only begun, but considerably advanced, the first President said: "Gentlemen, I have a cook who never asks if the guests have come, but whether the hour has come."



Theodore Roosevelt: "I suppose I overdo it, but when I'm mad at a man I want to climb up his chest." "A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad."



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