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# Trends. Malaysia and The Senate Trial of President Clinton: Finally, The End: But To What End?

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As of this writing (Thursday, February 11, 6:00pm, EDT), the Senate trial of United States (U.S.) President Clinton, who bears the moniker of "Slick Willie," is commonly expected to be over on February 12, the birthday of a former U.S. President, Abraham Lincoln, who bears the moniker of "Honest Abe." As one approaches retrospective analyses of the trial, one may most easily find that neither sex, nor illegality was at issue, but power. A look at the ongoing trial in Malaysia of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim can support this observation.

Mr. Anwar was initially accused of sexual misbehavior--illegal and illicit sexual practices with men and women--and misuse of power to support his penchant for sexual misbehavior. Just as Mr. Clinton has his semen-stained blue dress, Mr. Anwar has his semen-stained mattress. Mr. Anwar's defense has largely rested on the notion that the allegations were part of a personal vendetta by his political enemies--a perspective shared and declaimed in the Clinton matter by no less a dramatic personage than Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

More recently, Mr. Anwar's defense, centering on the political vendetta argument, has been disallowed by judicial authority and the misuse of power allegation has largely transferred from the exploiting of sexual partners to the notion of a cover-up--attempting to quash a police investigation. Mr. Clinton's supporters never had the significant possibility of using the political vendetta argument to ward off impeachment by the House of Representatives and a Senate trial, but they used the argument well as a mass media device to generate polling data supporting Mr. Clinton's quest to remain in office. As well, U.S. Representative Henry Hyde and the "House Managers"--a moniker that President Clinton's supporters have successfully linked with Tomas de Torquemada and his inquisitorial staff--perseverated that the trial was not about sex but about perjury and obstruction of justice.

At this point, Mr. Anwar and Mr. Clinton part company. The former has already been removed from office as the trial proceeds and was even jailed and--allegedly--beaten up. The latter retains his lofty office and even gave a party for supporters and acolytes after the House of Representatives impeached him. The documented and still to be documented differences in the fates of the two leaders have much less to do with sincerely held beliefs about sex, justice, equality, and equity, than about differential predilections and abilities for playing the power game. While Mr. Anwar seems to face a gloomy future, Mr. Clinton will soon be lighting up a victory cigar. (See An update on sex and politics. (December 11, 1998). IBPP, 5(23); A stain on the red, white, and blue: Sex and United States (U.S.) foreign policy. (August 7, 1998). IBPP, 5(6); Berke, R.L., & Bennet, J. (February 11, 1999). Clinton vows strong drive to win a house majority, advisers say. *The New York Times*, pp. A1; A23; Psychology of sex: The evolutionary scandals. (April 17, 1998). IBPP, 4(15); Schmitt, E. (February 11, 1999). A majority vote to convict on perjury count in doubt. *The New York Times*, pp. A1; A23; Sex and the Totemic Presidency. (August 21, 1998). IBPP, 5(8); The public and private selves of political leaders: Sex as pipeline to the political soul. (October 17, 1997). IBPP, 3(12).) (Keywords: Anwar Ibrahim, Bill Clinton, Impeachment, Power, Sex, Trial.)