

## The Act That Can't Cut It

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During Donald John Trump's time at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, he expressed his displeasure with some documents by tearing them up.

Which is illegal, as CNN takes pains to make clear. His underlings would then scoop up the shreds of paper and tape them together.

Keyword: farcical.

This comedy might be funny to watch in a sequel to, say, *In the Loop*, the 2009 political satire. But it's not so funny in the current iteration, with the FBI's raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago mansion.

The search for documents "illegally removed from the White House" has seems an obviously political ploy. Since



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Trump was legally allowed to de-classify documents, his taking of allegedly still-classified docs seem, well, a rather trivial matter.

Keyword: petty.

Right-leaning media and the left-ensconced media talk about all this very differently, of course, and I confess to finding the former a little more convincing than the latter. Focusing on documentation seems like an excuse to find some petty thing to disqualify Trump from

running again in 2024.

While Trump *not* running again might be the best thing for the GOP, and America, that's not really relevant: Republicans are stuck with the one champion, with few decent alternatives, and Democrats are in worse shape. Which is why they fret about Trump.

Using the Presidential Records Act of 1978 as a disqualifier for a Grover Clevelandesque re-run of a defeated president is on everybody's lips. But there's a problem: how could it possibly pass constitutional muster? The Constitution specifies the qualifications for the job. Congress cannot add or subtract to those qualifications by law.

That was the argument used to disqualify term limits in *U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton*: qualifications for candidates were specified in the Constitution. Neither states nor Congress could change it.

If Democrats seek to breach this principle . . . then let's look at term limits again.

Keywords: do it.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.