

Peggy Noonan Quotes

*Party, Thinking, Political, America, Speech, Moving, Country, Politics, Needs,
Communication, Men, Strong, Loyalty, Important, Interesting, Government,
Way, People, Fall, President*

A speech is poetry: cadence, rhythm, imagery, sweep! A speech reminds us that words, like children, have the power to make dance the dullest beanbag of a heart.

~Peggy Noonan

The battle for the mind of Ronald Reagan was like the trench warfare of World War I: never have so many fought so hard for such barren terrain.

~Peggy Noonan

TV gives everyone an image, but radio gives birth to a million images in a million brains.

~Peggy Noonan

Naps are nature's way of reminding you that life is nice, like a beautiful swinging hammock strung between birth and infinity.

~Peggy Noonan

My generation, faced as it grew with a choice between religious belief and existential despair, chose marijuana. Now we are in our Cabernet stage.

~Peggy Noonan

If you join government, calmly make your contribution and move on. Don't go along to get along; do your best and when you have to - and you will - leave, and be something else.

~Peggy Noonan

You don't have to be old in America to say of a world you lived in: 'that world is gone.'

~Peggy Noonan

If you commit a big crime then you are crazy, and the more heinous the crime the crazier you must be. Therefore you are not responsible, and

nothing is your fault.

~Peggy Noonan

You can get so well educated in America that your thoughts become detached from common sense. You can get so complicated in your thinking that the obvious isn't real to you anymore.

~Peggy Noonan

I think miracles exist in part as gifts and in part as clues that there is something beyond the flat world we see.

~Peggy Noonan

Morals are concerned with what aids or impedes the fulfillment of basic human needs.

~Peggy Noonan

Part of courage is simple consistency.

~Peggy Noonan

Humor is the shock absorber of life; it helps us take the blows.

~Peggy Noonan

When you forget yourself and your fear, when you get beyond self-consciousness because your mind is thinking about what you are trying to communicate, you become a better communicator

~Peggy Noonan

Sincerity and competence is a strong combination. In politics, it is everything.

~Peggy Noonan

Boundaries aren't all bad. That's why there are walls around mental institutions.

~Peggy Noonan

I love eulogies. They are the most moving kind of speech because they attempt to pluck meaning from the fog, and on short order, when the emotions are still ragged and raw and susceptible to leaps.

~Peggy Noonan

Don't fall in love with politicians, they're all a disappointment. They can't help it, they just are.

~Peggy Noonan

The biggest improvement in the flow of information in America in our lifetimes is that no single group controls the news anymore.

~Peggy Noonan

Cynicism is not realistic and tough. It's unrealistic and kind of cowardly because it means you don't have to try. ---in Good Housekeeping

~Peggy Noonan

Speeches are not magic and there is no great speech without great policy.

~Peggy Noonan

Candor is a compliment; it implies equality. It's how true friends talk.

~Peggy Noonan

By trying to do too much, you risk not doing enough.

~Peggy Noonan

The first snow always startles. It covers the tricycle in the driveway, turning its frame into an abstract sculpture that says: See how quickly yesterday turns into today.

~Peggy Noonan

Politicians, please, think of yourselves! Move to help Terri Schiavo, and no one will be mad at you, and you'll keep a human being alive.

~Peggy Noonan

Let's cause some senators distress.

~Peggy Noonan

Loyalty consists of many things, including being truthful with our friends. When you really disagree, you have to say so.

~Peggy Noonan

Abortion is either OK or it's not.

~Peggy Noonan

A great speech is literature.

~Peggy Noonan

It's better for the country when each party looks like it stands for something serious, for some big things, but they're not narrow and they're not bought.

~Peggy Noonan

Here is an old tradition badly in need of return: You have to earn your way into politics. You should go have a life, build a string of accomplishments, then enter public service.

~Peggy Noonan

This is the Democratic paradox: You want so much to run America and yet you seem not so fond of Americans.

~Peggy Noonan

Resentment isn't a magnetic personal style.

~Peggy Noonan

At some point, don't voters start to see all of public life as one big polluted river? And if they do, don't they stop saying things like "That's

a busted tire floating by" and "That's an old shoe"?

~Peggy Noonan

I was sailing from tedium to apathy with a side trip to torpor.

~Peggy Noonan

when men in politics are together, testosterone poisoning makes them insane.

~Peggy Noonan

I do not know what the Democratic Party spent, in toto, on the 2004 election, but what they seem to have gotten for it is Barack Obama. Let us savor.

~Peggy Noonan

The Democrats often seem like the Not Republican Party, no more and no less.

~Peggy Noonan

The core of the concept of a bribe is an inducement improperly influencing the performance of a public function meant to be gratuitously exercised.

~Peggy Noonan

But one immediate thing can be done right now, and that is: lower the temperature. Any way you can, and everybody. Just lower it.

~Peggy Noonan

Now he is a statesman, when what he really wants is to be what most reporters are, adult delinquents.

~Peggy Noonan

Wit penetrates; humor envelops. Wit is a function of verbal intelligence; humor is imagination operating on good nature.

~Peggy Noonan

The Democratic Party is that amazing thing, out of power for six years and yet exhausted. They're pale, tired, and unready. Too bad, since it's their job to be an alternative, not an embarrassment.

~Peggy Noonan

I guess the second-term team is not quite as adoring as the first.

~Peggy Noonan

[democrats] have become the party of snobs. You have become the party of Americans who think they're better than other Americans.

~Peggy Noonan

The Democratic Party's complete obeisance to [the abortion] lobby makes Democrats look bought, frightened and craven.

~Peggy Noonan

Speeches are more important in politics than talking points, as a rule, and are better remembered.

~Peggy Noonan

I should say here, because some in Washington like to dream up ways to control the Internet, that we don't need to 'control' free speech, we need to control ourselves.

~Peggy Noonan

Some of the stupidest brilliant people who ever lived.

~Peggy Noonan

When everyone in America knows you're in a dreadful position, admit you're in a dreadful position. Don't lie about it and make them roll their eyes, tell the truth and make them blink.

~Peggy Noonan

In ancient Israel and Rome the judge had appeared as a stand-in for the divine, and corruption was a blinding of the representative of the divine.

~Peggy Noonan

We don't need to 'control' free speech, we need to control ourselves.

~Peggy Noonan

Read good, big important things.

~Peggy Noonan

Ted Sorrenson, JFK's presidential speech writer, when asked how it came about that he wrote the "ask not what you can do..." speech, he would answer 'ask not.'

~Peggy Noonan

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