



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on January 5, 2015

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Quick Quotes

What Are You if You “Lead” and No One Follows?



John Boehner

AP Images

“I learned a long time ago if you’re a leader and nobody’s following you, you’re just a guy out for a walk.”

*Pressed for an answer by Congressman Tom Cole (R-Okla.) about why he was letting “the guys who didn’t vote for you (to be Speaker) drive the conference,” House Speaker **John Boehner** admitted he was indeed trying to gain support for his agenda from hardline conservative congressmen who are unimpressed with his leadership.*

Newly Elected Congressman Explains What Drove Him to Seek Election

“I saw the consequences of failed leadership in Washington. I think the politicians didn’t know what they were doing when they got us into Iraq, and then they didn’t have our backs when we were there.”

*After graduating from Harvard University in 2001, **Seth Moulton** earned a commission in the Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in Iraq, where he was twice decorated for heroism. He recently won election as a Massachusetts Democrat representing the state’s Sixth Congressional District.*

Pointing a Finger at the President’s Inability to Retain Leaders

“When the president goes through three secretaries of defense, he should ask, ‘Is it them, or is it me?’”

*Congressman **Buck McKeon** was referring to former Secretaries of Defense Robert Gates, Leon Panetta, and Chuck Hagel, each of whom served for a time and then left the office.*

Presidential Powers Are Supposed to Be Limited

“No matter how a president begs or cajoles or commands, his power is to ‘take care that the laws be



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faithfully executed.' His power starts after laws and appropriations are enacted. It does not start with the State of the Union speech or a declaration at a press conference."

Barron's editorial page editor **Thomas Donlan** correctly summarized the limited authority possessed by any president.

Bombing Becomes the New Norm in the Land Where the Arab Spring Began

"We warned the people two days ago not to use those airports, so no innocent people get caught up in our airstrikes. We are moving the fight to the western region."

*With the Libyan capital and airports in its largest cities falling under control of Libya Dawn, a coalition of extreme Islamist groups, the opposition forces led by **Soqr Joroshi** conducted air raids hoping to defeat the uprising.*

U.S. Birthrate Continues to Decline

"Americans haven't worried much about birthrates in the past because we have the faucet of immigration to turn on and off. It's a bigger problem in Europe where countries like Germany and Spain have much lower rates."

*A family demographer at Johns Hopkins University, **Andrew Cherlin** points to America's 1.86 children per woman fertility rate when 2.1 babies per woman is the minimum needed for a stable population — unless one opens the immigration spigots.*

Making a Strong Point in a Humorous Way

"Thank you, Federal Reserve, for printing all that money for the past half dozen years. Although, Fed, if you print some more, I wouldn't mind you sending it directly to my bank account instead of sending it to the enormous bank where my bank account is."

*Originally published in The Daily Beast, the column from which the above comment is excerpted was written by **P.J.O'Rourke** who, with tongue in cheek, thanked many government groups and individuals for their damnable and ridiculous deeds.*



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