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A Father, a Son, and a Politician

Steven Pomerantz

Somewhere right now there is a father telling his son to be respectful to women and always treat them with dignity.
In half an hour, after the boy goes to sleep, the father will proceed to visit the strip joint down the street.

Elsewhere, a newly-elected President is vetoing the bill he promised voters in his electoral campaign.
This family-values-oriented commander-in-chief has admitted to participating in acts of indiscretion with a certain intern.
This comes only seven months after the infamous statement:
"I did not have sexual relations with that woman."
But it's all right because he never inhaled.

Meanwhile, our father figure, who stands firmly and vehemently resolved that the President for whom he voted should either resign or be impeached, folds a dollar bill and shouts out obscenities and makes vulgar gestures while desperately trying to vanquish the thought of his sweet, innocent son, asleep at home.

Silent but violently echoing down the street on the father's two-minute drive home are the words unsaid in the tacit agreement between him and his son: "Do as I say, but not as I do."

Daddy had found solace in the fact that he has given up drinking for the third time in the past year.

He hasn't even hit his son, by whom he is absolutely and unconditionally adored, for over a month.

He has been able to hold down a new job for a week.

And, just today, he made his annual visit to his wife's gravesite.

News flash! Impeachment hearings will proceed!
The newspapers are in a feeding frenzy.

And somewhere is an elated reader
Whose son is sleeping.