

Expectations don't always come true

When you hear these phrases, be afraid. Be very afraid.

"Deficits don't matter." One of my colleagues used to lecture about this all the time. Apparently he never spent much time in Europe.

"The institution is simply too big to fail." In this country, the only "institution" this applies to is the government.

"Lowering interest rates will stimulate economic growth." When – exactly – is this supposed to happen? Pretty soon they'll be paying you to take out a loan.

"Let the market decide." Makes a great bumper sticker; unfortunately, if this was all that mattered, we'd still have slavery and kidneys would always go to the highest bidder.

"They should pull themselves up by their bootstraps," which is usually followed by "Like I did." Of course, this is much easier if you have been provided with boots, bootstraps, a place to stand, detailed instructions and a cheering section.

"This presidential election will determine the future of our country."

Sure it will – just like it does every four years.

"Lowering taxes – especially on the rich – will increase revenue and create jobs." Didn't we do this about a decade ago? Shouldn't we all be employed and rolling in the dough by now? I see why it's called the Laffer Curve.

"It's American Exceptionalism; the rules don't apply to us." Absolutely – like they didn't apply to the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and every other great civilization.

"When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." Close, but I believe the original quote was "When guns are outlawed, only insecure, paranoid, mentally challenged conspiracy theory nuts will have guns." Wait, that's who has them now.

And last but certainly not least: "Jesus preached total self-reliance." Yeah. That's probably why he told his followers to sell everything they owned and give the money to the poor.

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