

Where Have You Gone, Al Franken?

January 2, 2018

Today, finally, is the day. Barring some last-minute hijinks in the extended resignation ritual announced almost four weeks ago by Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), the comedian turned *cad* turned *politician* turned *pervert* leaves his U.S. Senate seat.

And hopefully keeps his mitts off other people's seats to boot.

Even without deadline hijinks, the Franken saga has been strange. After hearing Franken's resignation statement on the Senate floor, CNN's Chris Cizzilla wrote, "He didn't believe he had done anything for which he should have been forced to resign."

They want the no-longer-amusing Franken out. Sure. But they also wish to continue the pretense that Franken is a wonderful fellow just the same.

But note: No one "forced" Senator Franken to step down. As my Sunday Townhall.com column reminded, he did so voluntarily.

Why?

Peer pressure. Three-quarters of fellow



Democratic Party senators demanded Franken leave, to clear the way for election-year attacks on Republican sexual sleaze-balls without partisan distraction.

And now some cry crocodile tears. They want the no-longer-amusing Franken *out*. Sure. But they *also* wish to continue the pretense that Franken is a wonderful fellow just the same.

"His voice will be stronger than ever," argued fellow Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar—*ridiculously*. A Vox article was headlined, "Al Franken resigned amid sexual misconduct allegations, but Democrats aren't making him leave in disgrace."

Is it a paraphrase of the old joke: "Don't go away in disgrace, Senator, just go away"?

But Franken *is* leaving in disgrace. Should be.

Eight women have come forward with allegations of sexual misconduct. The senator's response has been to publicly apologize, profusely, and then, later, claim that "some of the allegations" are "not true."

Others he remembers "differently."

Not good enough, ex-senator.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.