

In transparency 1.3B we see a political cartoon suggesting that the President sometimes does not keep his campaign promises.



- This political cartoon comments on the loss of faith in U.S. government. Here the cartoonist implies that the President lies in order to appease the public, the effect of which leaves the public skeptical about politicians and cynical about government.
- Political corruption was a serious problem in the latter stages of the Roman Empire. The Romans, for example, never created an effective system to determine how new emperors would be selected. For this reason, the choice of a new emperor was always open to

debate between the old emperor, the Senate, the Praetorian Guard (the emperor's private army), and the army. Gradually the Praetorian Guard gained complete authority to choose the new emperor. In return, the new emperor handsomely rewarded the Guard for its support. This system worked fairly well for a time. Beginning in A.D. 186, however, when the army strangled the new emperor, the practice began of selling the throne to the highest bidder. During the next 100 years, Rome had 37 different emperors—25 of whom were removed from office by assassination.

Critical Thinking Questions: Which theory on the fall of the Roman Empire does this cartoon most closely relate to? What are the similarities and differences between Ancient Rome and America today on this issue?