

THE TUSSLE IN TULSA: A RETROSPECTIVE

I had been worried about the risk of violence in Tulsa this weekend given Trump's tweet bordering on incitement ahead of his rally.

Fortunately my concern was for naught. Didn't see a single Hawaiian shirt cross my Twitter feed while watching the lead up to and after the event, not a one in the approximately 6,600 attendees.

But the event itself didn't live up to other expectations.

I have to believe Brad Parscale will be looking for new contracts. Or perhaps he'll be retained just to keep him from mucking things up further somewhere else in the election cycle food chain.



He'd claimed 800,000 had reserved for the event, a number which seemed wholly unrealistic considering the population within a four-hour drive of Tulsa and the advertisements placed for non-white attendees. We know now a confluence of activist engagement via social media platform TikTok, K-pop fans, and mounting concerns about COVID-19 contagion as well as risk of violence may have artificially boosted reservations and kept attendance down.

Parscale's claimed this morning that protesters blocked access to the venue, pointing to an AFP photo of a gate with a couple handfuls of protesters and what looks like an equal amount of media.

Unfortunately for Parscale, AFP took a photo of another gate with red-hatted, pale-skinned,

maskless attendees streaming through the gate.

And other media outlets took photos outside the venue showing an awful lot of pavement.



The speech intended for outdoor overflow audience was cancelled. Wouldn't even need a sound system to speak to this few people.



The big feat of the day: one-handed drinking.



Attendees were subjected to a 20-minute ramble about the "fake news" from his Westpoint speech last weekend after which he had difficulty walking down a ramp.

What a perfect example of the cobra effect – trying to defuse a problem but only making it worse. But Trump is too much of a narcissist to allow criticism of his person to go unanswered.

The lowest point in Trump's speech yesterday was his remarks about COVID-19 testing.



He's made comments before about the number of tests correlating to the number of cases. Comic Sarah Cooper has famously riffed on this.

But this time he's expressed an intent to withhold health care from the public for personal aims – to keep the reported number of cases artificially low, without regard to the effect this would have on actual reduction of COVID-19 cases.

Aside from revealing again he's so utterly toxic, this statement needs investigation. It's impeachable if he both demanded a reduction or

slow-down in tests, especially if he did so for the purposes of improving his polling numbers.

None of his efforts skewing reality have paid off as he'd like. We can see the tangerine emperor's ass.



And nothing he's done will make this grim number go away.



This is an open thread.