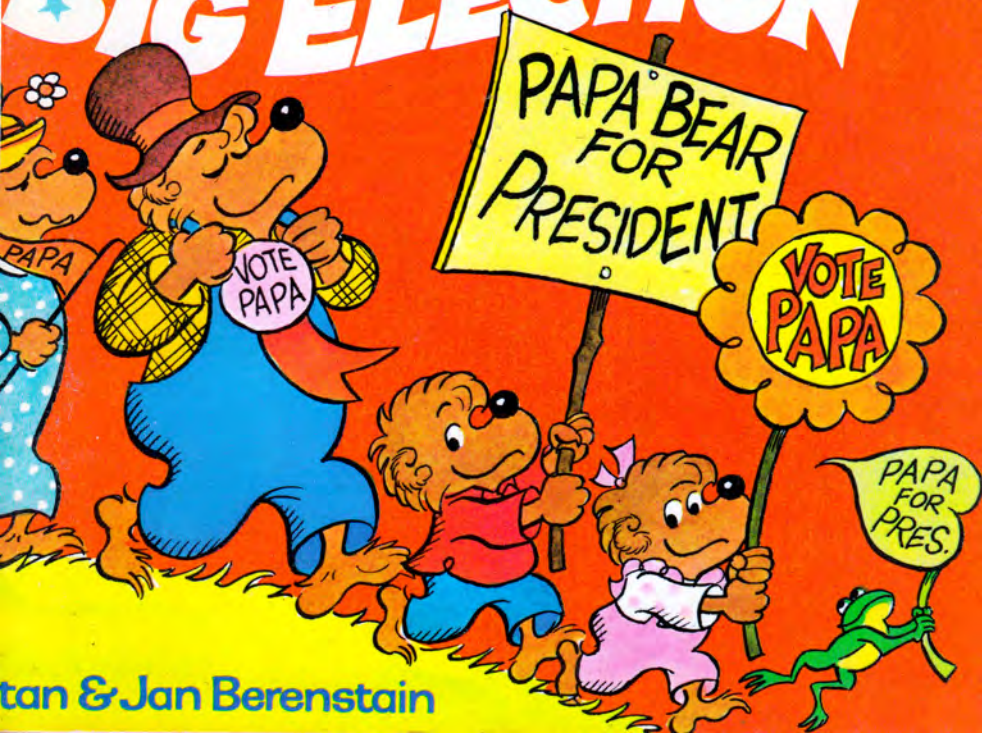


THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE BIG ELECTION



tan & Jan Berenstain

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS ***AND THE*** ***BIG ELECTION***

Stan & Jan Berenstain



Random House  New York

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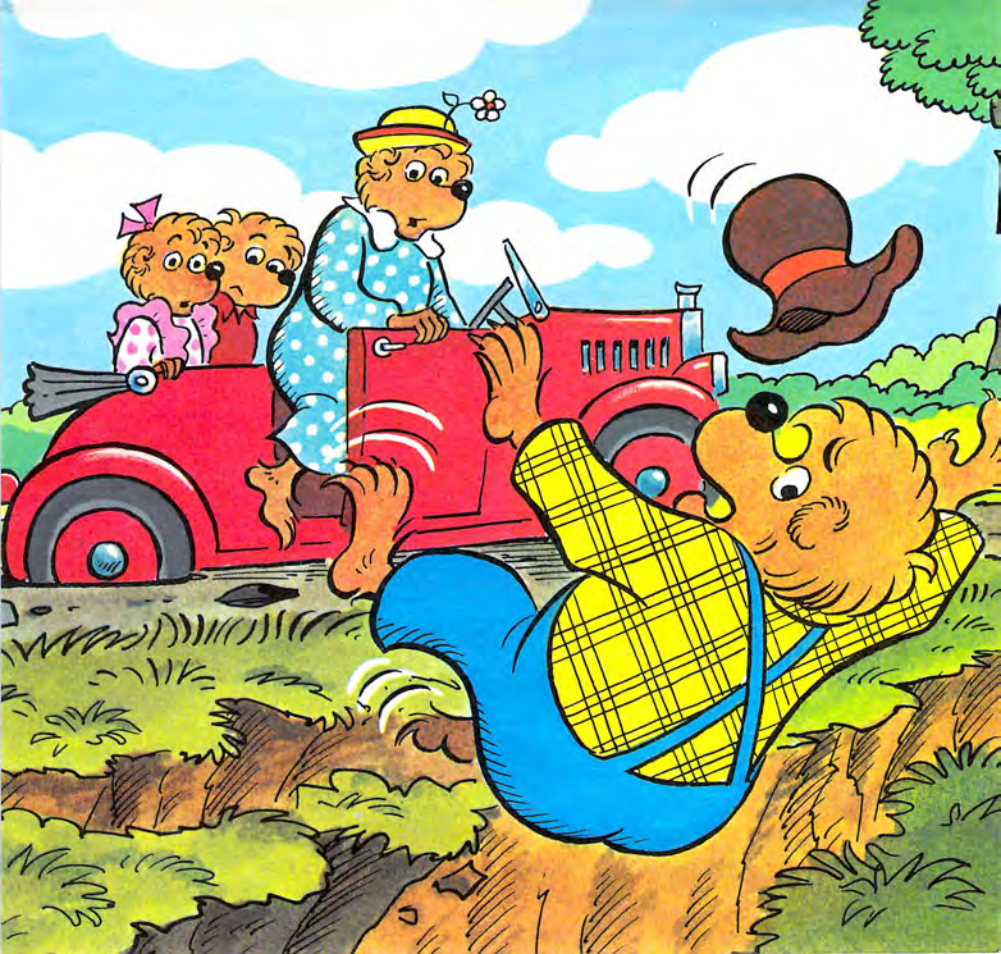
“Blast!” said Papa Bear as the Bear family’s car went over a very big bump. The Bear family—Papa, Mama, Brother, and Sister—were on their way to town to do some shopping.

“These roads are in terrible shape,” said Papa angrily. “Why, these roads are enough to shake your teeth loose!”



Then, just after they went over the big bump, the car hit a deep pothole.

“Double blast!” Papa shouted. And when he got out of the car to look for damage, the edge of the road crumbled and he fell into a ditch.



Now Papa was really angry.

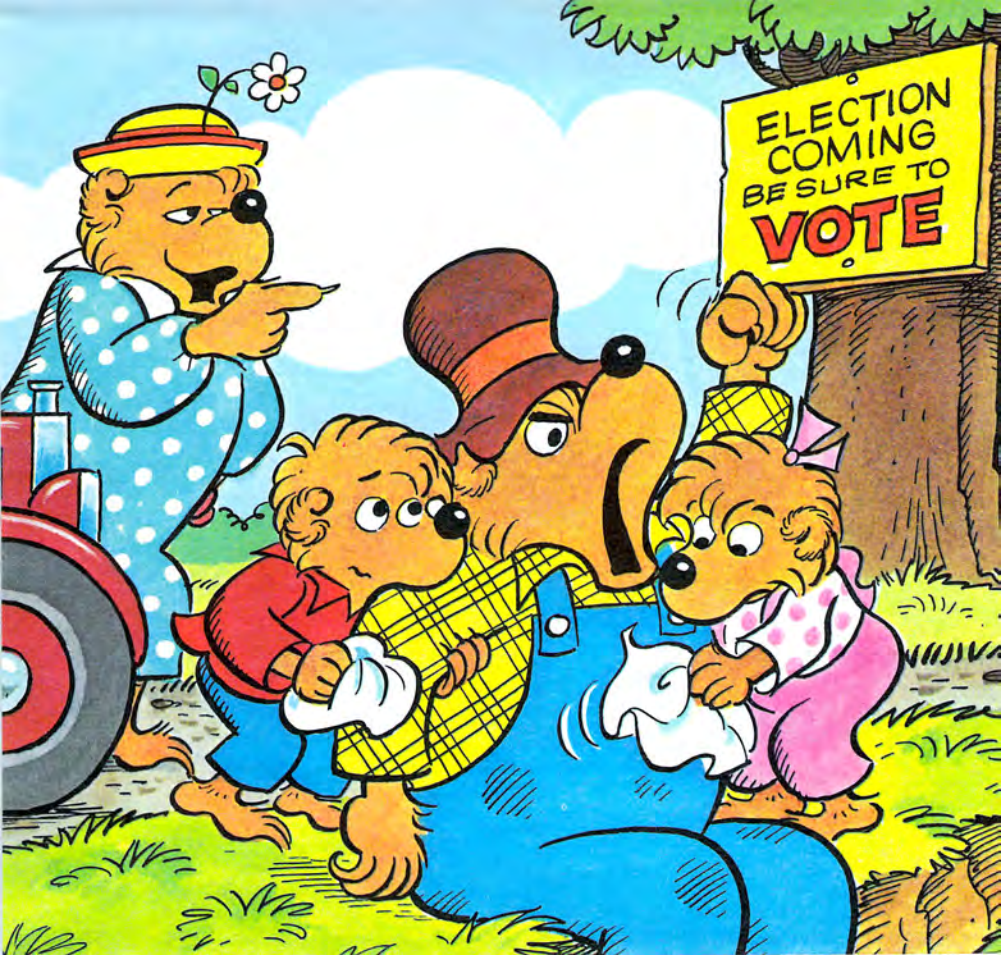
“Outrageous!” he shouted as Mama and the cubs helped him out of the ditch. “Bear Country is falling apart! Why doesn’t the government *do* something?”

“Why don’t *you* do something, dear?” said Mama, who was getting a little tired of Papa’s complaining.

“Like what?” asked Papa.

“Well, you could vote in the next election,” said Mama, pointing to a sign. The sign said ELECTION COMING. BE SURE TO VOTE.

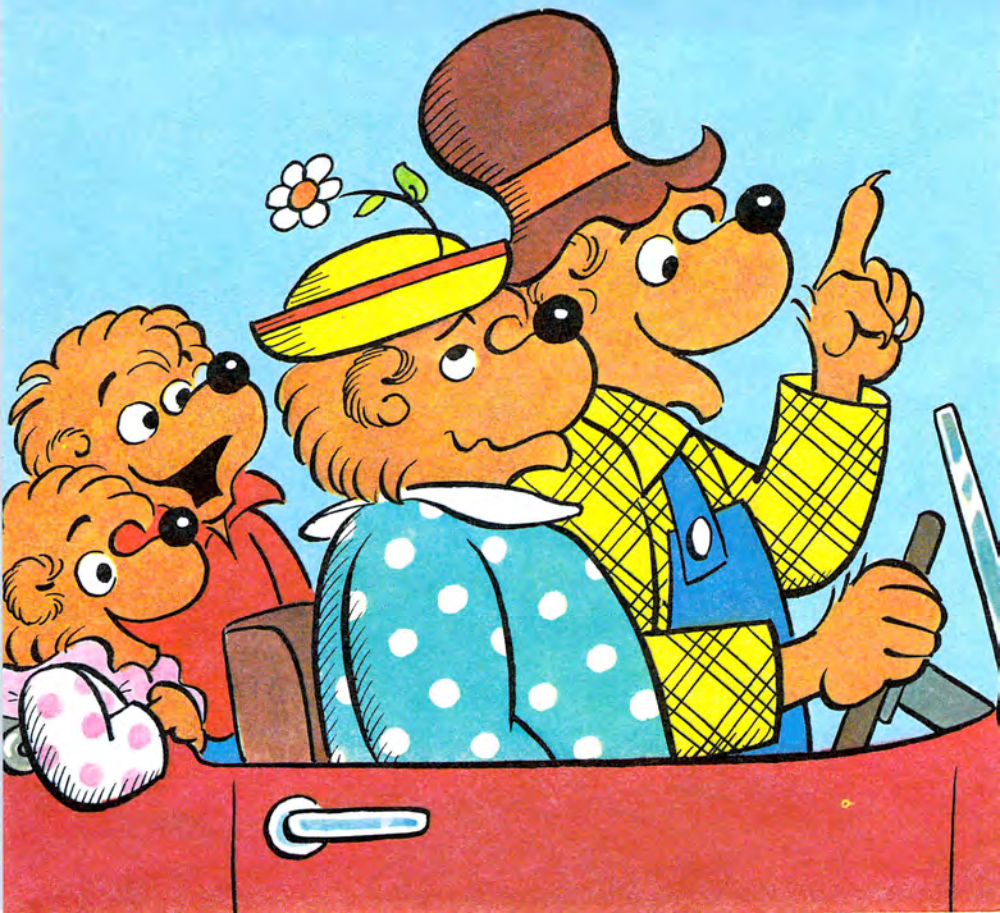
“Hmmm,” said Papa.



“I’ll do more than *vote* in the next election,” said Papa. “I’ll *be* in the next election. I’m going to run for president of the Town Council!”

“Oh, boy!” said the cubs.

“Oh, dear!” said Mama.



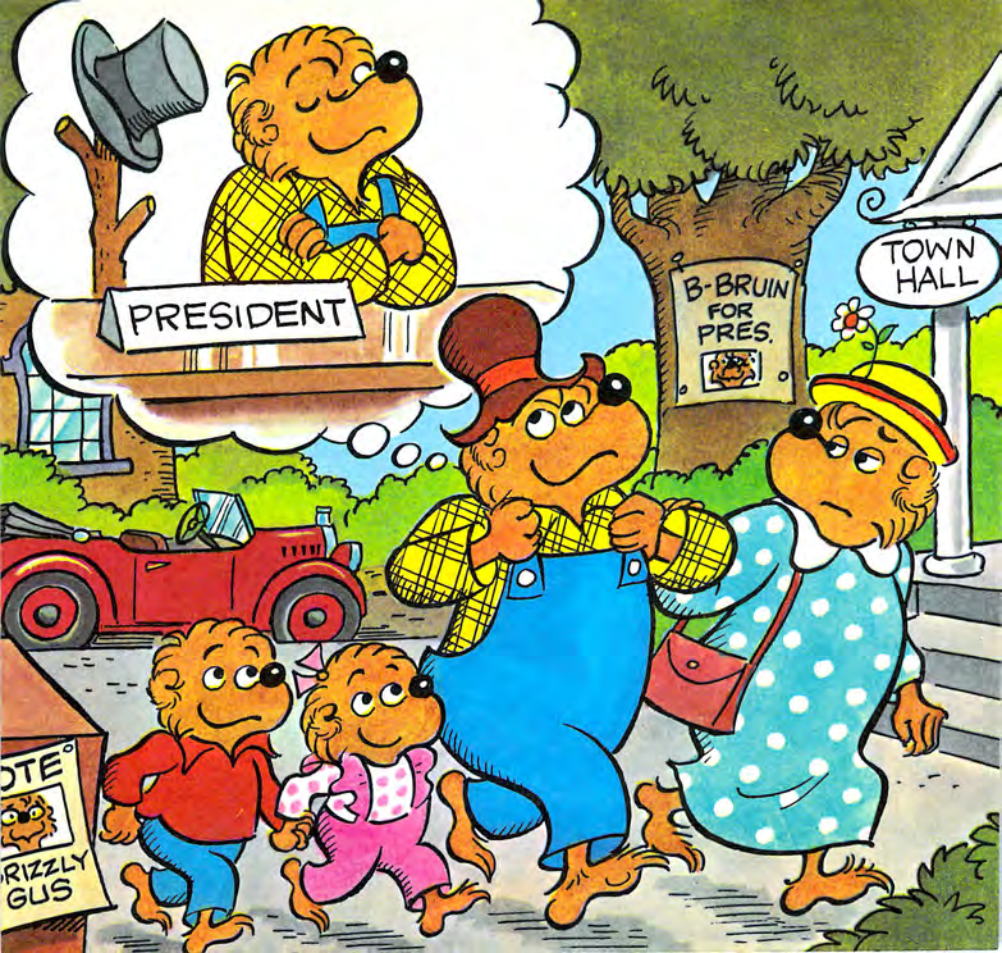
“And you,” said Papa to Brother and Sister, “will be my campaign managers!”

“Oh, boy! Wow!” shouted the cubs.

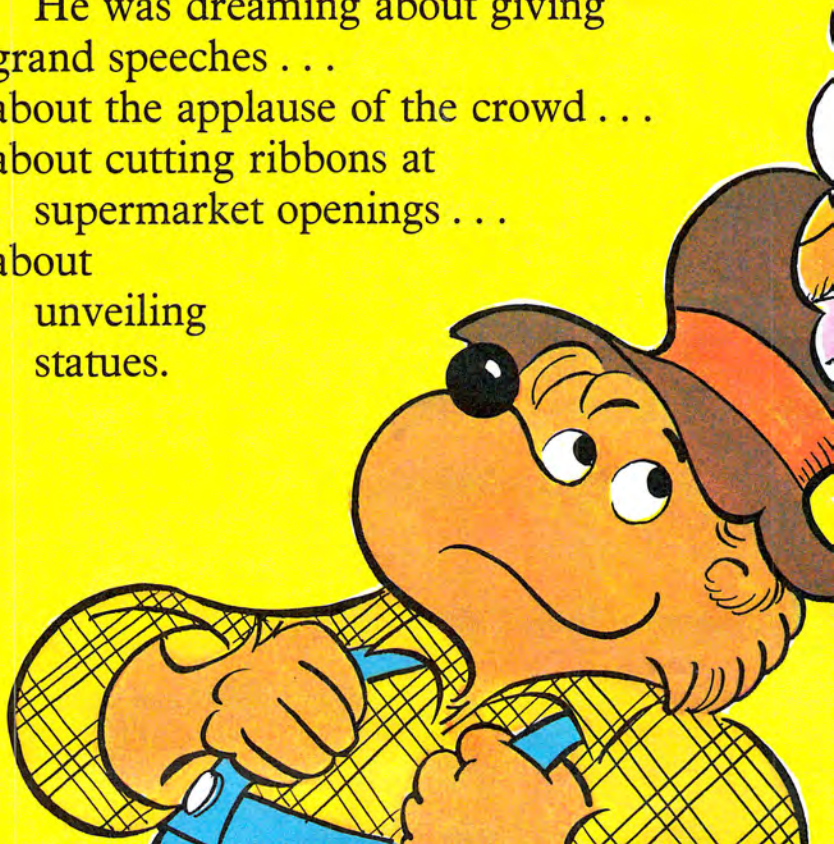
But Mama had doubts. There were others in the race. What Mama was worried about was Papa’s disappointment if he should lose.

“Dear,” she said, “I really think you should think twice about this.”

But Papa wasn’t listening. He was already dreaming about the glories of being president of the Town Council.



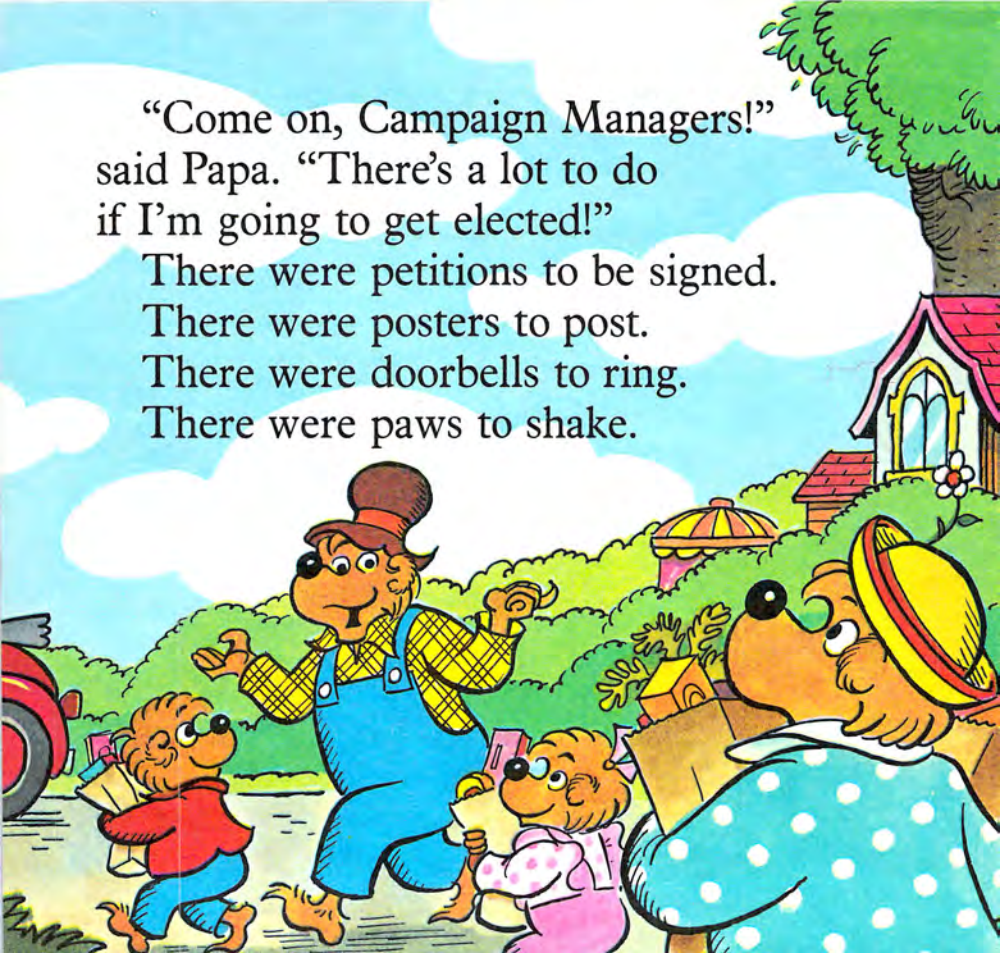
He was dreaming about giving
grand speeches . . .
about the applause of the crowd . . .
about cutting ribbons at
supermarket openings . . .
about
unveiling
statues.

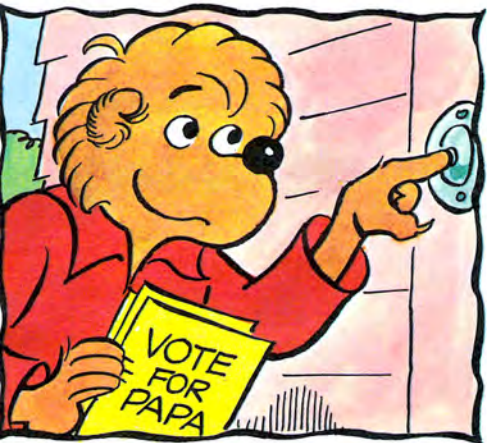




“Come on, Campaign Managers!”
said Papa. “There’s a lot to do
if I’m going to get elected!”

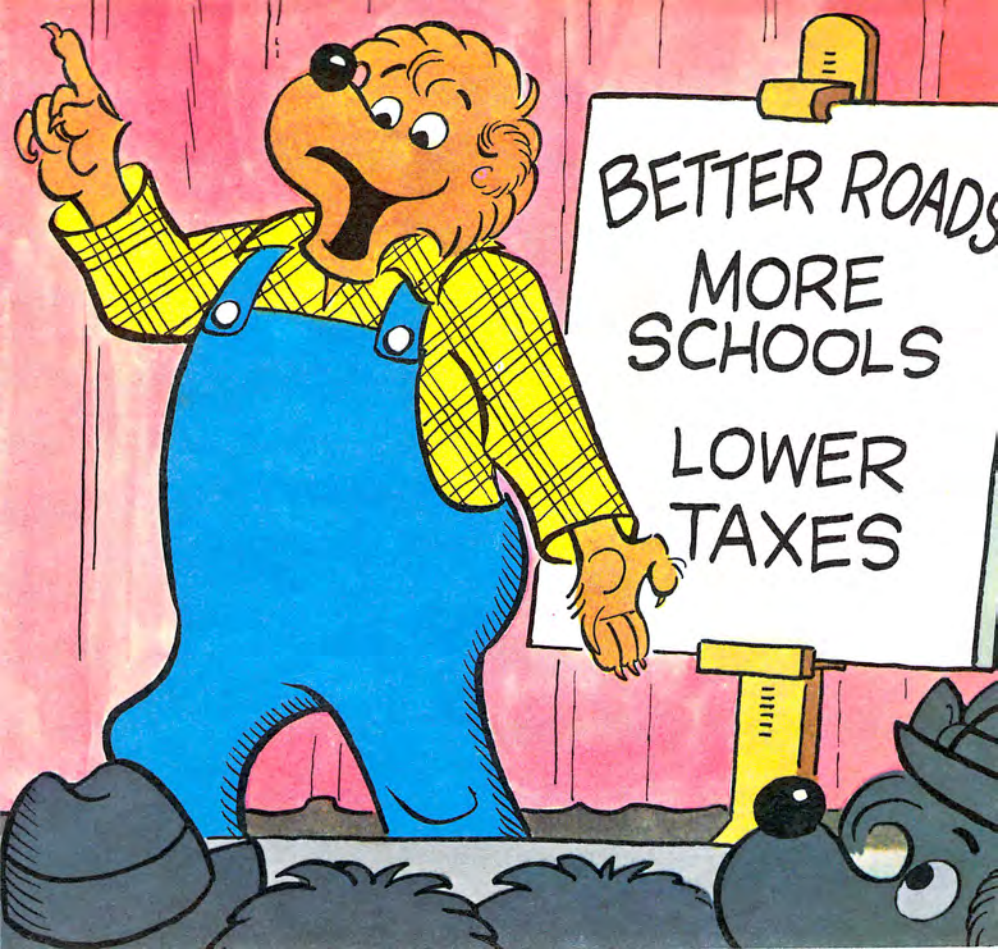
There were petitions to be signed.
There were posters to post.
There were doorbells to ring.
There were paws to shake.





Papa turned out to be a pretty good campaigner. He was especially good at making promises.





BETTER ROADS
MORE
SCHOOLS
LOWER
TAXES

He promised the bears that if he was elected there would be honey in every honey pot, a scratching post on every corner, and trout in every stream.





He promised the crows
all the corn they could eat
and an end to scarecrows.

He promised the beavers
more birch saplings,
the squirrels more
acorns, the robins
more worms, and the
worms fewer robins.





When election day came, Papa was still shaking paws and making promises.

It was a bright sunny day and everybody came out to vote. Papa and Mama voted early. So did the other candidates for council president.

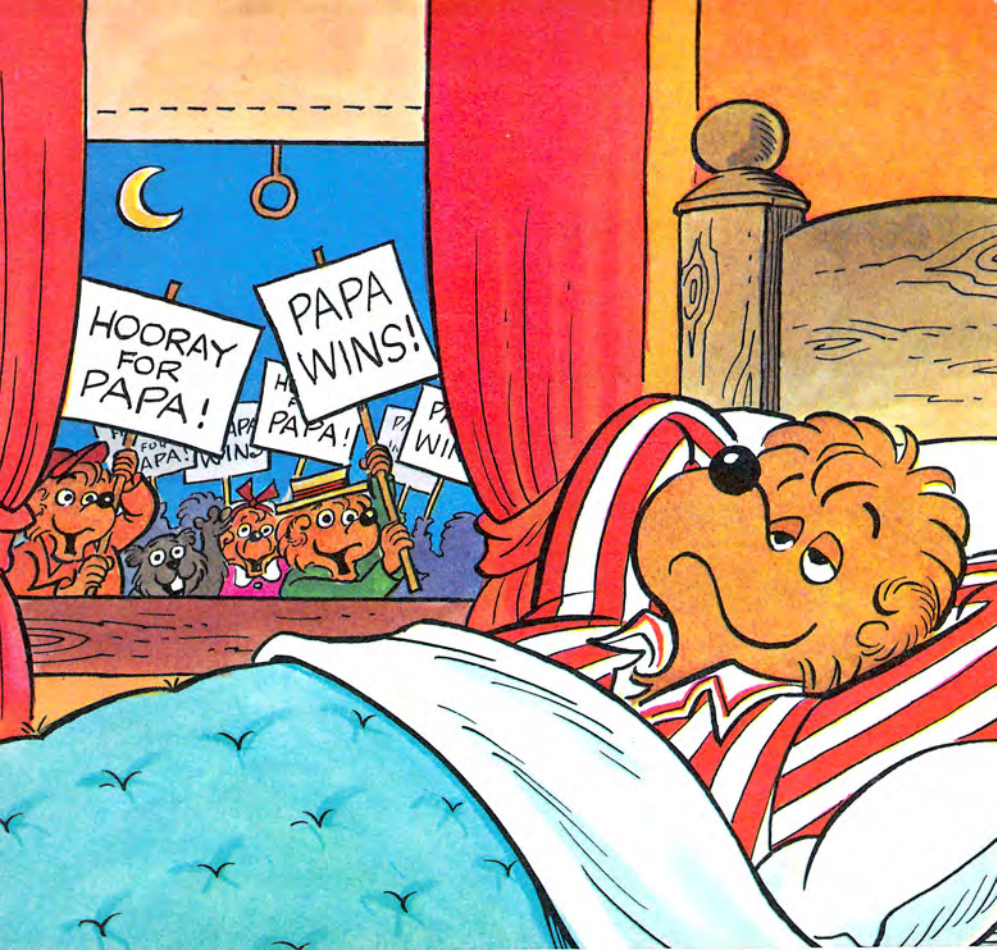
Then they all went home to wait for the votes to be counted.

VOTE HERE

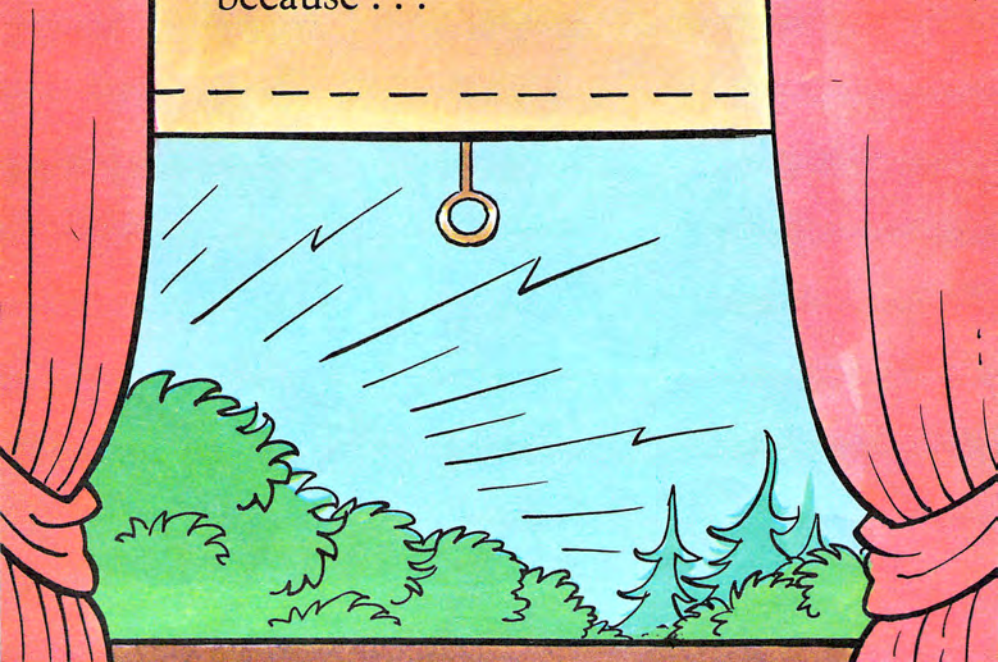


It was late evening when the word came. Papa had won! He had won the election! Papa was president of the Town Council!

It was very exciting to be elected to high office. When Papa went to sleep that night, he had a big smile on his face.



And it was very exciting
the next morning, too,
because . . .



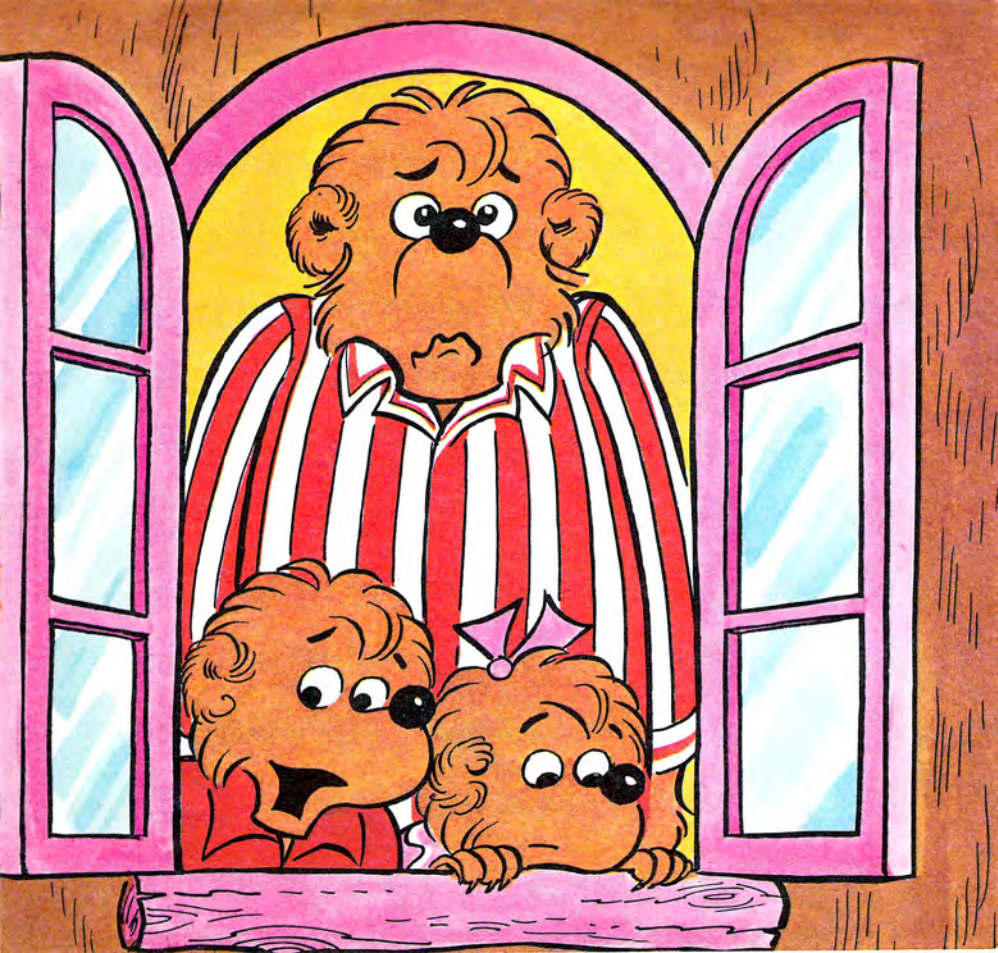


... lined up outside the home of the new council president were all the Bear Country folk to whom Papa Bear had made promises, promises, promises.





“Hmm,” said Brother, looking at the long, long line. “There’s just one trouble with running for high office—you just *might* get elected!”





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