

STUFF THAT SEEMED INTERESTING AT THE TIME

Hello Family and Friends:

Another Sunday...

...and...

...some Stuff that Seemed Interesting at the Time...

...though admittedly focused at the Presidential election – nothing else seems so important right now – and I’m worried, very worried, for this country...

...promise, after the election I’ll get back to more eclectic stuff...

All the best...

Don

STUFF TABLE OF CONTENTS

This week our curiosity brings us to:

STUFF THAT SEEMED INTERESTING AT THE TIME	1
STUFF TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
REMINDER ON DONTURNER.WORDPRESS.COM STUFF	1
QUICK THOUGHTS ON “STUFF” AFTER 4 NOV 08	2
COMMON SENSE HAS LEFT THE ROOM STUFF	2
MOHAMED ATTA GETS DRIVER’S LICENSE UNDER COMRADE OBAMA STUFF	4
THE PARTY IS OVER STUFF	5
SENATOR BIDEN SAID WHAT STUFF	8
THOUGHTS ON DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH STUFF	9
IS SARA PALIIN QUALIFIED TO BE PRESIDENT QUICK QUIZ STUFF	12
A PLUMBER’S GIFT TO MCCAIN STUFF	13
NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES IF COMRADE OBAMA ELECTED STUFF	14
MEDIA VERSUS JOE THE PLUMBER STUFF	15
HALLOWEEN AND DEMOCRAT STUFF	16
OPEN LETTER TO BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA STUFF	17
ED (EXCESSIVE DISHONESTY) GOT YOU DOWN STUFF	23
FINAL THOUGHT STUFF	24
EXPLANATORY – YET POIGNANT - DISCLAIMER	25

REMINDER ON DONTURNER.WORDPRESS.COM STUFF

Folks, as I’ve mentioned before, “Stuff” now sits up every Sunday – give or take - at the following URL:

<http://donturner.wordpress.com/>

Typically “out there” by noon on Sundays – sometimes earlier, sometimes later.

Presently, I send out a blind cc from one of my gmail accounts to notify folks – but this often gets “kicked out” as potential SPAM by some of the Corporate and AOL filters. That is the reason I don’t send it from my primary account.

Therefore, though I will continue to send a “bcc” to folks on my mailing list over time I would suggest you simply check that site for the latest or learn how to establish a RSS feed.

QUICK THOUGHTS ON “STUFF” AFTER 4 NOV 08

Folks, yes, I can only write about political matters of late. However, I’m truly looking forward to getting back to my normally curiosity-driven eclectic journey through life.

However, today and next week are all about shouting at the top of my lungs that of which I find blatantly right, obviously stupid, or obtuse and requiring clarification.

All the best...

Don

COMMON SENSE HAS LEFT THE ROOM STUFF

Folks, I’m not sure what else I can do. I try, I really do. However, how can you have an intelligent discussion with a Comrade Obama supporter?

Talking to a friend on the phone yesterday. He said we can’t afford another eight years of a Bush presidency. I said, “hey man, don’t if you heard but he HAS to leave office. He is done, finite, kaput. In fact, they are having an election right now.”

He says, “okay, okay, you know what I mean. He is putting this country into bankruptcy with Freddie Mac, etc.”

I said, “wait a minute there cowboy, both Bush and McCain tried to institute controls for those institutions in 2005 but your Democratic party voted them down.”

Him, “they did?”

Me, “yes, they did and by the way did you know that Obama was the second largest recipient of Freddie Mac donations? So who do you think had more to gain from their continued existence?”

Him, “he was? Well, McCain is a war monger and wants to keep us at war forever”

ED: [you noticed the smooth if almost imperceptible segue a Democrat uses when they realize their line of reasoning is false?]

Me, “you know, he would have to be certifiably insane to wish what he endured in five years of prison camp on anyone. Seems to me he will be more cautious than most in sending America’s best into harm’s way”

Him, “Saddam didn’t do anything to us, we should have never gone in there”

Me, “Well, actually he did – by paying the families of suicide bombers money for killing Americans. That is a declared act of war. That aside, did you know that I have a video file of every major Democratic leader declaring Saddam an enemy of the United States and that he needed to be removed from his position?”

Him, “they did?”

Me, “Yep, caught in color with audio and everything”

Him, “so you are comfortable with Palin as President?”

ED: (again that subtle segue – sure-fire indicator from a Leftist that we are changing subjects]

Me, “I think she is more qualified than Obama”

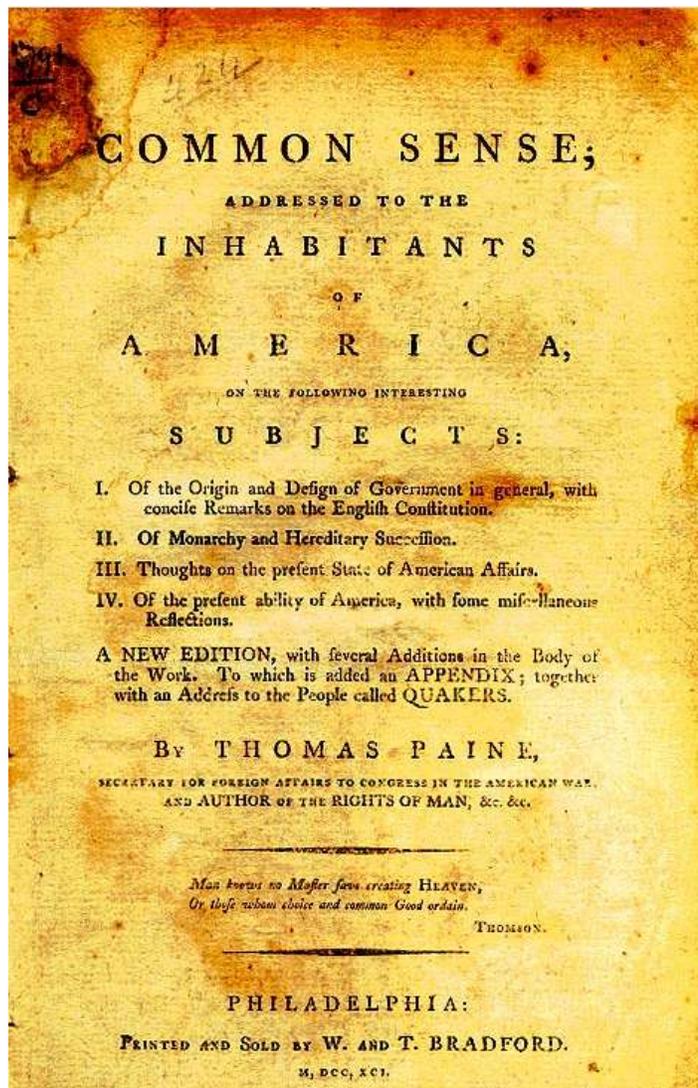
Him, “All she wants to is drill, drill, drill”

Me, “And the problem with that is?”

Him, “we need to be buying more oil from overseas”

ED: [I will say that I’m getting better at hiding my look of utter incredulity when talking to someone from the Left who says something so outlandishly devoid of facts, common sense, or an inkling of how our economy works]

Me, “did you know that not only does that makes us depending on foreign oil – our enemies often times – it further adds to the major problem of our trade deficit. That is why many of the monies used to “shore up” our institutions are borrowed from folks like China?”



ED: [silence at the other end of the phone, yet one more indicator that I've introduced too high a level of thought process and now the Liberal brain function is trying hard not to essentially "lock up"]

Him, "well, will agree to disagree. I believe Obama is best for the country"

ED: [also note the use of the term "believe" rather "think" – another discernable difference between the Liberal psyche and the Conservative psyche]

Me, "yea, I guess we will"

What scare me is that there are so many folks out there who are going to coronate King Comrade Barack Hussein Obama – the Savior of Socialism – based on lack of accurate information, lack of cognizant and analytical thought processes, and blatantly lack of concern or interest or understanding of what this country is based on, how this country works, its position within world affairs, and what it needs.

I'm reminded what Albert Einstein said about stupidity:

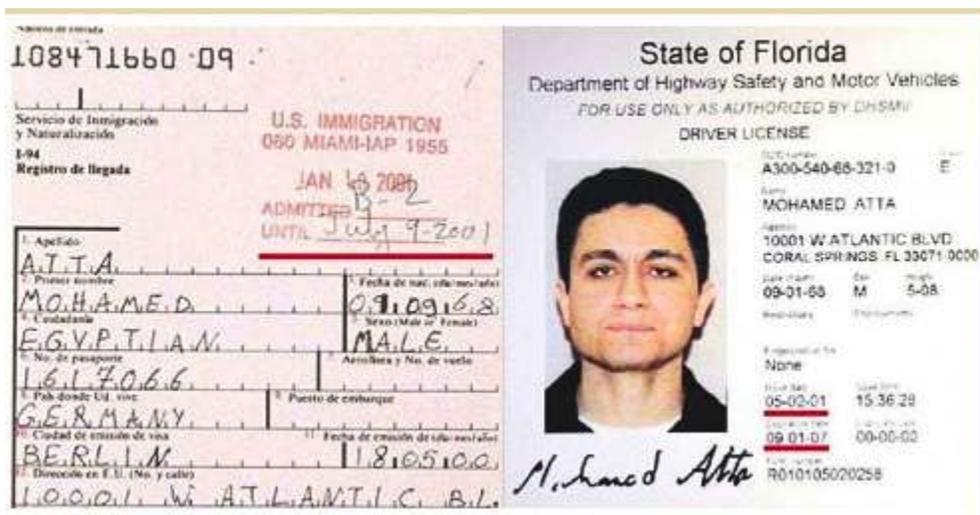
"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits."

MOHAMED ATTA GETS DRIVER'S LICENSE UNDER COMRADE OBAMA STUFF

I know offering facts during this particularly election period only serves to remove the obfuscation surrounding the lines of policy demarcation – and gives the Left headaches – but I've only got a few more weeks before I give up any sense of economic motivation and start calling everyone "Comrade" so here it is.

Did you know that between a Democratic President, Senate, and House there will be enough power to pretty much do anything they want. Importantly, they will only increase their power base because they will provide handouts to those who don't work and don't pay taxes and therefore will become increasingly dependent on Mother America for their continued existence.

That said, if the Democrats would have had their way prior to September 11, 2001 guess who would have had a valid Driver's License?



Yep, kid you not folks, kid you not.

THE PARTY IS OVER STUFF

Provocative, to say the least!

...

About Linda Monk

Linda R. Monk, J.D., is a constitutional scholar, journalist, and nationally award-winning author. A graduate of Harvard Law School, she twice received the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award, its highest honor for law-related media. Her books include *The Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution*, *Ordinary Americans: U.S. History Through the Eyes of Everyday People*, and *The Bill of Rights: A User's Guide*. For more than 20 years, Ms. Monk has written commentary for newspapers nationwide - including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Chicago Tribune*.

...

THE PARTY'S OVER

By Linda Monk

The Crash of 2008, which is now wiping out trillions of dollars of our people's wealth, is, like the Crash of 1929, likely to mark the end of one era and the onset of another.

The new era will see a more sober and much diminished America .

The "Omni power" and "Indispensable Nation" we heard about in all the hubris and braggadocio following our Cold War victory is history.

Seizing on the crisis, the left says we are witnessing the failure of market economics, a failure of conservatism.

This is nonsense.

What we are witnessing is the collapse of Gordon Gecko ("Greed Is Good!") capitalism.

What we are witnessing is what happens to a prodigal nation that ignores history, and forgets and abandons the philosophy and principles that made it great.

A true conservative (Rep or Dem) cherishes prudence and believes in fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets and a self-reliant republic.

He believes in saving for retirement and a rainy day, in deferred gratification, in not buying on credit what you cannot afford, in living within your means.

Is that really what got Wall Street and us into this mess -- that we followed too religiously the gospel of Robert Taft and Russell Kirk?

"Government must save us!" cries the left, as ever.

Yet, who got us into this mess if not the government -- the Fed with its easy money, Bush with his profligate spending, and Congress and the SEC by liberating Wall Street and failing to step in and stop the drunken orgy?

For years, we Americans have spent more than we earned.

We save nothing.

Credit card debt, consumer debt, auto debt, mortgage debt, corporate debt -- all are at record levels.

And with pensions and savings being wiped out, much of that debt will never be repaid.

Our standard of living is inevitably going to fall.

For foreigners will not forever buy our bonds or lend us more money if they rightly fear that they will be paid back, if at all, in cheaper dollars.

We are going to have to learn to live again within our means.

THE PARTY'S OVER!

Up through World War II, we followed the Hamiltonian idea that America must remain economically independent of the world in order to remain politically independent.

But this generation decided that was yesterday's bromide and we must march bravely forward into a Global Economy, where we all depend on one another.

American companies morphed into "Global Companies" and moved plants and factories to Mexico, Asia, China and India, and we began buying more cheaply from abroad what we used to make at home: shoes, clothes, bikes, cars, radios, TVs, planes, computers.

As the trade deficits began inexorably to rise to 6 percent of GDP, we began vast borrowing from abroad to continue buying from abroad.

At home, propelled by tax cuts, war in Iraq and an explosion in social spending, surpluses vanished and deficits reappeared and began to rise.

The dollar began to sink, and gold began to soar.

Yet, still, the promises of the politicians come.

Barack Obama will give us national health insurance and tax cuts for all but that 2 percent of the nation that already carries 50 percent of the federal income tax load.

John McCain is going to cut taxes, expand the military, move NATO into Georgia and Ukraine, confront Russia and force Iran to stop enriching uranium or "bomb, bomb, bomb," with Joe Lieberman as wartime consigliere.

Who are we kidding?

What we are witnessing today is how empires end.

The Last Superpower is unable to defend its borders, protect its currency, win its wars or balance its budget.



Medicare and Social Security are headed for the cliff with unfunded liabilities in the tens of trillions of dollars.

What we are witnessing today is nothing less than a Katrina-like failure of government, of our political class, and of democracy itself, casting a cloud over the viability and longevity of the system.

Notice who is managing the crisis.

Not our elected leaders.

Nancy Pelosi says she had nothing to do with it.

Congress is paralyzed and heading home.

President Bush is nowhere to be seen.

Hank Paulson of Goldman Sachs and Ben Bernanke of the Fed chose to bail out Bear Sterns but let Lehman go under.

They decided to nationalize Fannie and Freddie at a cost to taxpayers of hundreds of billions, putting the U.S. government behind \$5 trillion in mortgages.

They decided to buy AIG with \$85 billion rather than see the insurance giant sink beneath the waves.

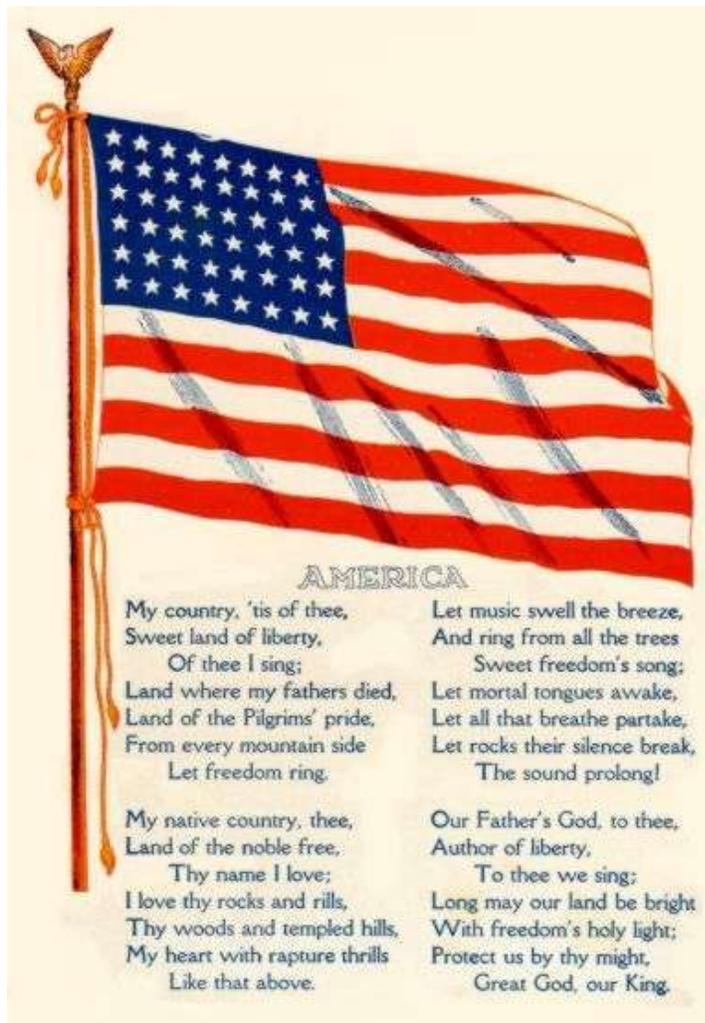
An unelected financial elite is now entrusted with the assignment of getting us out of a disaster into which an unelected financial elite plunged the nation.

We are just spectators.

What the Greatest Generation handed down to us -- the richest, most powerful, most self-sufficient republic in history, with the highest standard of living any nation had ever achieved -- the baby boomers, oblivious and self-indulgent to the end, have frittered away.

Added Comments:

How do WE THE PEOPLE put the villains who are responsible under oath and sit them down at public hearings to determine whose necks should meet the guillotine?



Hypocritically, those who had oversight responsibility - such as Senator Chris Dodd [Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee] and Barney Frank [Chairmen, House Financial Services Committee] who helped get us into this mess - are on every TV channel voicing their righteous indignation and pompously sitting on their elevated platform glaring down at those they are chastising and grilling, trying to pass the blame to others.

WE THE PEOPLE should be on the elevated platform in judgment and execution of the likes of Chris Dodd, Barney Frank and the rest of the band of thieves and conspirators who are responsible for the financial collapse of the USA .

To name just a few of the culprits:

Henry Paulson Jr - Secretary of the Treasury

Alan Greenspan & Ben Bernanke -- Chairmen Federal Reserve

Christopher Cox - SEC Chairman.

But not to worry -- YOUR PUBLIC SERVANTS who fear being voted out of office will take their self-awarded Golden Parachute Congressional Retirement, give WE THE PEOPLE the finger one last time and head for their safe havens as the World Citizens they are.

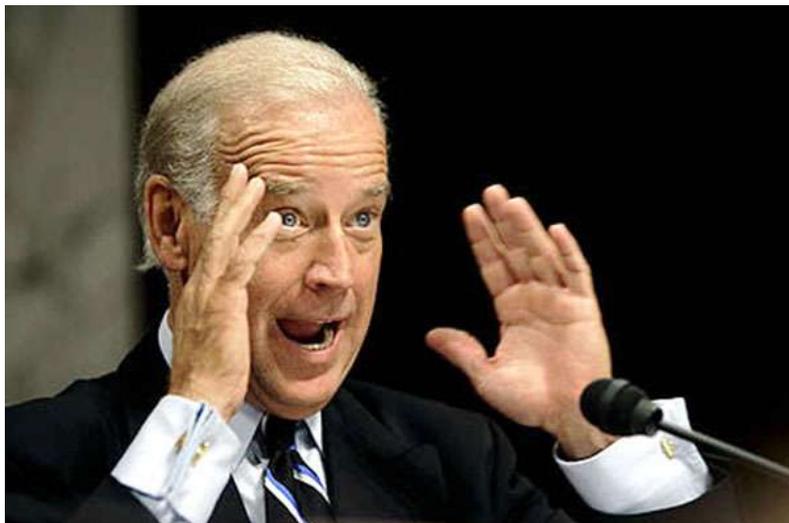
However, before they waddle off into the sunset, they will go on record one last time denouncing corporate greed, lavish salaries and bonuses for their key felons at Fannie May, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers & AIG.

Meanwhile, WE THE PEOPLE fiddle while Rome burns and are too lazy and indifferent to vote all the scum out of office.

SENATOR BIDEN SAID WHAT STUFF

Joe Biden continues to try to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory for Barack Obama. In a stunning statement, Biden acknowledged that Obama's lack of foreign-policy experience will provoke America's enemies into creating an international crisis. Biden apparently thinks this is just terrific:

ABC News' Matthew Jaffe Reports: Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., on Sunday guaranteed that if elected, Sen. Barack Obama., D-Ill., will be tested by an international crisis within his first six months in power and he will need supporters to stand by him as he makes tough, and possibly unpopular, decisions.



"Mark my words," the Democratic vice presidential nominee warned at the second of his two Seattle fundraisers Sunday. "It will not be six months before the world tests Barack Obama

like they did John Kennedy. The world is looking. We're about to elect a brilliant 47-year-old senator president of the United States of America. Remember I said it standing here if you don't remember anything else I said. Watch, we're gonna have an international crisis, a generated crisis, to test the mettle of this guy."

Something tells me the Mainstream-Obamamania-Media will cover this like a cat covers a turd.

THOUGHTS ON DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH STUFF

Thanks MB

Distribution of Wealth

An examination of the socialist argument

All men are equal, but some are more equal than others. Orwell's observation of the equality of man is as true today as when he wrote it over half a century ago. All men may be created equal, but they sure don't seem to stay that way for long. Some people meet with success, and are permitted to amass great wealth. Some take comfort in mediocrity, and are permitted to life comfortably. And still others embrace failure, and have a hard time making ends meet. It's a simple fact of life that most people accept - the fact that some people have more stuff than others. But have you ever wondered exactly how much more?

In a capitalistic society, success is largely measured by a person's wealth. The more useful to society you are, the more you are allowed to take from society. If you discover a "need" in society and find a way to fill that need, you can count on being rewarded handsomely. On the other hand, if you can't find a way to contribute to society, society will reward you accordingly. People that don't find a way to be useful to society can expect to receive very little in return for their labors, while those who take on greater responsibilities are allowed to reap greater rewards.

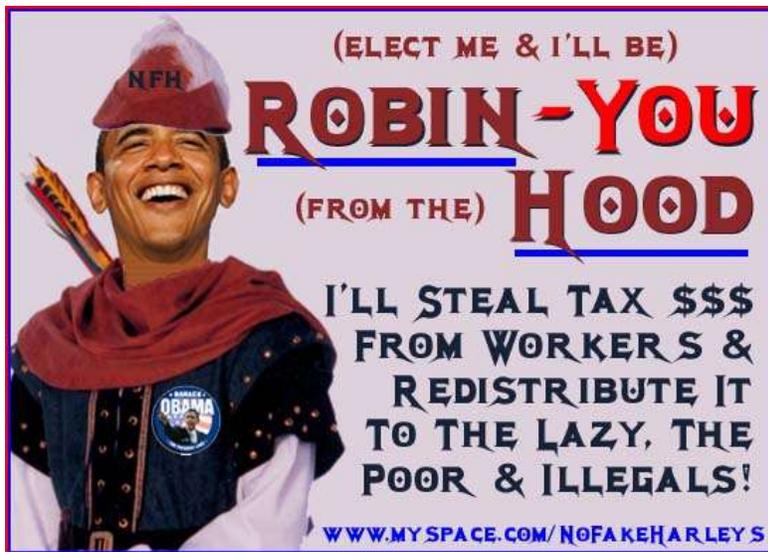
Of course, there are those that view this system as vastly unfair. They believe that no one person can possibly be more important than another, and that every person is an integral part of society. We call these people, liberals. The liberal takes the Thomas Jefferson's basic premise of equality to mean that all men are equal. Equal in every possible way - mentally, physically, and most importantly - economically. And if they discover any inequity - no matter how small - they see it as their job to make them equal.



The primary motivation behind liberal economic theology is the basic premise that the poor are too poor and the rich are too rich. They see a world in which upper class is enriches themselves of the backs of the poor. They see a world in which workingmen are slaves to their capitalistic masters - that is, those lucky enough to have a master. The unfortunate ones are doomed to a life of homelessness, starvation, and criminality. A true free market society is rife with inequity - - Those who can figure out how to get it, get it - and those who don't, don't -- and those who don't get it are mad as hell.

Above all of this chaos they see Government - a knight in shining armor. They believe that the government - the largest corporation in the country - should step into the capitalistic fray and bring equality to everyone's wealth. In a sense, they work to morph government into a sort of "Robin Hood" - a all-powerful entity that taxes the rich in order to feed the poor. This is what is commonly referred to as "Redistribution of Wealth".

There are various levels of socialist thought, from the die-hard communists to democratic socialists to progressive liberals. The methods for achieving economic utopia vary from group to group, but they all employ the same basic principles. They all want to use the power of government to take goods and services from the 'haves', and transfer their plunder to the 'have-nots'. They all strive towards the same goal - economic equality. They only differ in the level of government supremacy they believe will be required in order to achieve their goal.



Every nation of the world has toyed around with socialist concepts. Some of the poorer nations of the world decided to base their entire government on Marxists theory - we call them communist. In these countries, there is no "private" ownership of property - everything is owned by the state. The only businesses that weren't owned by the state were small shops run by "tradesman" - bakers, blacksmiths, etc. - any business that could be run by one person or a small family. These business

had to remain small, since it was illegal for any private citizen to "enslave" a fellow citizen through employment.

On the other hand, the wealthier industrialized nations opted to enact some of these "redistribution" schemes to help "patch-up" the flaws in their free-market economies (which hopefully will be enough keep their own subjects from revolting). These "social democracies" use government to impose tax schemes which rake in cash from the "haves", and use this money to create government programs to give to the "voters"... I mean.. the "have-nots".

Socialism dominates the political discussion in virtually every free society. As a result, there exists in each country two political parties - One that favors increasing the number of such programs, and another party that opposes them. Of course, the particular politics of each nation may vary, but versions of these two parties can be found in every democratic country - A

"conservative" party that seeks to maintain the capitalistic system, and a "liberal" party that pushes the system slowly towards socialism. This is the crux of the argument between the two prevailing economic theologies. The "left" (socialist) believes that the poor deserve more, and the "right" (capitalist) believes that those who do the most work deserve the most profit.

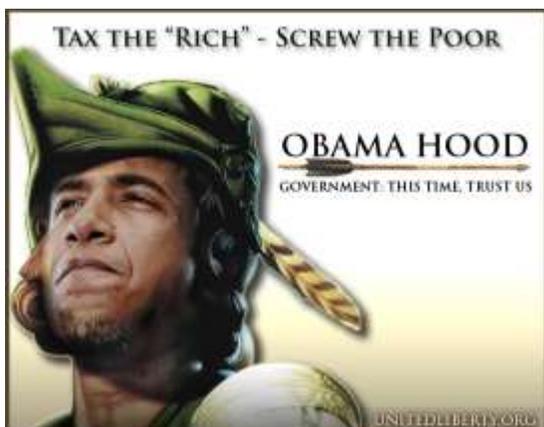
We have heard both sides of the argument time and time again. The Democrats (the 'liberal party' of the US) argue in favor of increasing minimum wage, and the Republicans (the 'conservative party' in the United States) counter that it will raise the cost of goods. The Democrats argue that we need to create more programs to help the poor, and the Republicans counter that we shouldn't be taxing our citizens to death. The Republicans want to eliminate the death tax since it destroys businesses, and the Democrats want to keep it because it eliminates "family wealth", and allows them to redistribute this wealth to the masses.

Both sides are mostly correct ... from their own point of view. The Democrat's programs will succeed in shifting wealth from the top to the bottom - but there is no thought given to how this will effect the economy as a whole. These programs take money from the middle & upper classes, and hand it over to the lower caste. But by stealing money from the "haves", they will in effect be punishing people for success. Economic expansion will be hindered in the absence of the "profit motive" that lies at the heart of most business ventures. And without entrepreneurs the economy cannot expand, and in the end everybody suffers.

But apart from the economic consequences of socialist policies, there lies several social consequences as well. Such programs by their very nature require the forcible taking of wealth - A policy that is anathema to most democratic principles. Theft does not cease to be theft simply because an elected body is the entity which is perpetrating the act. "Forced Charity" is not charity at all - it is theft.

And in the end, such policies cause a large segment of the population to become somewhat "dependant" on the government - another concept shunned by cultures which cherish freedom.

But the other side of the coin isn't without its flaws either. Republican actions will help stimulate the economy and help increase production. And even though fair portion of this increase will "trickle down" to the masses, most will end up going those at the top. The Republicans will argue that the rich deserve this wealth for working so hard to build new businesses and increase production. But without the social "safety nets" that the Democrats have put in place, many of our nation's citizens will be left in the cold.



IS SARA PALIIN QUALIFIED TO BE PRESIDENT QUICK QUIZ STUFF

Okay, boys and girls, quick quiz.

I know, I know, pop quiz that wasn't announced. However, sometimes you just gotta do what you gotta do.

Question: What is America's first line of missile interceptor defense that protects the entire United States?

- Answer: 49th Missile Defense Battalion of Alaska National Guard.

Question: What is the ONLY National Guard unit on permanent active duty?

- Answer: 49th Missile Defense Battalion of Alaska National Guard

Question: Who is the Commander in Chief of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of Alaska National Guard?

- Answer: Governor Sarah Palin, Alaska

Question: What U.S. governor is routinely briefed on highly classified military issues, homeland security, and counter terrorism?

- Answer: Governor Sarah Palin, Alaska

Question: What U.S. governor has a higher classified security rating than either candidate of the Democrat Party?

- Answer: Governor Sarah Palin, Alaska



According to the Washington Post, she first met with McCain in February, but nobody ever found out.

This is a woman used to keeping secrets.

She can be entrusted with our national security . . .

...because she already is.

A PLUMBER'S GIFT TO MCCAIN STUFF

I like reading Dick Morris. As the former

A WHOLE NEW GAME: PLUMBER'S GIFT TO MCCAIN

By DICK MORRIS & EILEEN MCGANN

Published in the The New York Post on October 20, 2008

Ronald Reagan's most important contribution to the American political dialogue was his ability to move the tax issue from an economic-populist issue into a populist, blue-collar one. Under George W. Bush, however, the issue has switched back to one of class warfare, as increasing numbers of Americans have paid no taxes at all and the rates on those who did pay taxes fell. Now, a chance encounter with "Joe the Plumber" has afforded the Republicans the chance to use taxes as a blue-collar issue.

The opening Joe provided and John McCain skillfully exploited in the third presidential debate gives the GOP ticket its first long shot at victory since McCain punted on the terrible, pork-laden, corporate-giveaway "rescue" bill Congress passed and Bush signed. Obama's tax plans and spending programs have emerged as the key point of difference between the campaigns. And the Democrat's comment to Joe that he saw his tax policy as a "way to spread the wealth around" underscores the motive behind his program: to redistribute income. Obama might as well have told Joe, "I want to take the hard earned money you make fixing pipes and give it to other people."

If the Republican Party concentrates its fire on the tax issue and the redistributionist impulse behind Obama's plans, it can close the Democratic lead point by point, day by day, until the election. McCain's campaign must resist the temptation to take random shots on other issues and zero in on the tax-and-spend issue, stressing how taxes penalize those who work hard and live right.

In fact, the rich are paying vastly more in taxes than they ever have. "Reality Check," by Dennis Keegan and David West, points out that the percentage of income-tax revenues paid by the top percent of the population has almost doubled in the last 20 years; it now pays 40 percent of all income tax. (The bottom half in income pays less than 3 percent.) Despite the lower rates, the rich are paying more in taxes because they are earning more and more. In the last eight years, real, after-inflation income growth for the top 10 percent of the population has been more than 45 percent.



Essentially, the tax debate comes down to economic populism versus social populism. The Democratic economic populists rail against the rich and demand that they pay more in taxes. The Republican social populists decry the notion of income redistribution as rewarding failure and penalizing hard work. Until Joe, the economic-populist polarity dominated the presidential race to the detriment of the Republicans. But now Joe has brought the social-populist argument back to life.

Because there always are, there will doubtless be those who see the social-populist approach as a code word for racism, especially because it is directed against the proposals of an African-American candidate. But the dichotomy that social populism exploits is one that separates the most productive members of our work force from the others, in the spirit of Joe the Plumber. Race is quite beside the point.

The question is whether McCain has the discipline to pursue the tax issue doggedly for the rest of the campaign. The other targets - from Bill Ayers to ACORN - are so tempting but ultimately appeal to the Republican base and few others. But taxes hit us all.

The core difference between the American working class and its European equivalents is that Europeans are inclined to vote based on their current condition while Americans base their decisions more on their goals and objectives for the future. Americans assume upward mobility while Europeans do not. Each nation's workers are correct in their assessments.

Despite the widening gap between the richest 20 percent and the poorest in the United States, the economic chart is constantly churning. People are always moving out of the bottom fifth and up the scale, their places at the bottom of the ladder yielding to new arrivals, usually from abroad. So Americans are right to vote their dreams. Obama's European socialist tendency to sabotage growth in the interests of "fairness" merely serves to convert an American model that works into a European one that does not.

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES IF COMRADE OBAMA ELECTED STUFF

As of November 5, 2008, IF President Obama is elected to office, our company will initiate a few new policies which are in keeping with Obama's new, inspiring issues of change and fairness:

1. All salespeople will be pooling their sales and bonuses into a common pool that will be divided equally between all of you. This will serve to give those of you who are underachieving a "fair shake."
2. All low-level workers will be pooling their wages, including overtime, into a common pool, dividing it equally amongst yourselves. This will help those who are "too busy for overtime" to reap the rewards from those who have more spare time and can work extra hours.
3. All top management will now be referred to as "the government." We will not participate in this "pooling" experience because the law doesn't apply to us.
4. The "government" will give eloquent speeches to all employees every week, encouraging its workers to continue to work hard "for the good of all."



5. The employees will be thrilled with these new policies because it's "good to spread the wealth." Those of you who have underachieved will finally get an opportunity; those of you who have worked hard and had success will feel more patriotic.

6. The last few people who were hired should clean out their desks. Don't feel bad, though, because President Obama will give you free healthcare, free handouts, free oil for heating your home, free food stamps, and he'll let you stay in your home for as long as you want even if you can't pay your mortgage. If you appeal directly to our democratic congress, you might even get a free flat screen TV and a coupon for free haircuts (shouldn't all Americans be entitled to nice looking hair?)

MEDIA VERSUS JOE THE PLUMBER STUFF

Apparently the liberal left media forgot an old adage:

*"In making a point, ever ask a critical question to someone
if you don't already know the answer"*

That is what appears to have happened with Joe the Plumber.

...

[JONAH GOLDBERG:](#)



The Media Vs. Joe The Plumber

Joe the Plumber asked a sensible question. Why is he being attacked and belittled?

At a John McCain rally in Virginia on Saturday, Tito Munoz had come to face the enemy: the news media, which had declared war on Joe Wurzelbacher.

"Why the hell are you going after Joe the Plumber?" he yelled at a group of reporters, including my National Review colleague, Byron York. "Joe the Plumber has an idea. He has a future. He wants to be something else. Why is that wrong? Everything is possible in America. I made it. Joe the Plumber could make it even better than me. ... I was born in Colombia, but I was made in the U.S.A."

Who knows what it will do for McCain in the end, but the Joe the Plumber phenomenon is real. At the rally, supporters carried handmade signs reading "Phil the Brick Layer" and banners proclaiming "Rose the Teacher." Wurzelbacher symbolizes an optimistic, individualistic vision of America sorely lacking -- until recently -- in McCain's rhetoric.

Barack Obama, in contrast, has offered the most rhetorically eloquent defense of collectivism since Franklin D. Roosevelt. In his biographical video at the Democratic convention, he proclaimed that in America, "one person's struggle is all of our struggles." In his acceptance speech, he artfully replaced the idea of the American dream with the century-old progressive nostrum of "America's promise."

But the two visions are in opposition: the former individualistic, the latter collectivist. We each have our own idea of the American dream. Joe the Plumber's is to own a small plumbing company; yours might be something else entirely. In America, that's fine, because the pursuit of happiness is an individual, not a collective, right.

Obama's "America's promise," meanwhile, harkens back a century to the writings of such progressives as Herbert Croly (author of "The Promise of American Life"), who demonized individualism while sanctifying collective action overseen by the state. Obama also often articulates a vision of government inspired by the biblical injunction to be our brother's keeper. Few would dispute the moral message, but many disagree that such religious imperatives are best translated into tax or economic policy. (Where are the separation of church and state fetishists when you need them?) But individualists haven't had much of a voice in McCain, at least not until last week.

So we've listened to Joe Biden question the patriotism -- and, at times, piety -- of those who don't share Obama's economic vision. We've listened to Michelle Obama promise that her husband will make Americans "work" in his effort to fix our "broken souls." We've heard the candidate himself say that we should agree to higher taxes in the name of "neighborliness," and that he'd raise the capital gains tax -- even if it demonstrably lowered revenues -- "for the purposes of fairness." His "tax cut" for 95% of Americans is in large part a middle-class dole. He will cut checks to millions who pay no income tax at all and call it a tax cut.

In short, Obama's explanation to Joe the Plumber that we need to "spread the wealth around" is a sincere and significant expression of his worldview, with roots stretching back to his church and his days as a community organizer.

Millions of Americans don't share this vision. They don't see the economy as a pie, whereby your slice can only get bigger if someone else's gets smaller. They don't begrudge the wealthy their wealth; they only ask to be given the same opportunities. They look at countries such as France and, rather than envy their socialized medicine and short workweeks, they fear their joblessness and tax policies that punish entrepreneurialism. People like Tito Munoz look at America and see an open path to their own American dream.

It would be nice if the media at least tried to understand this point.

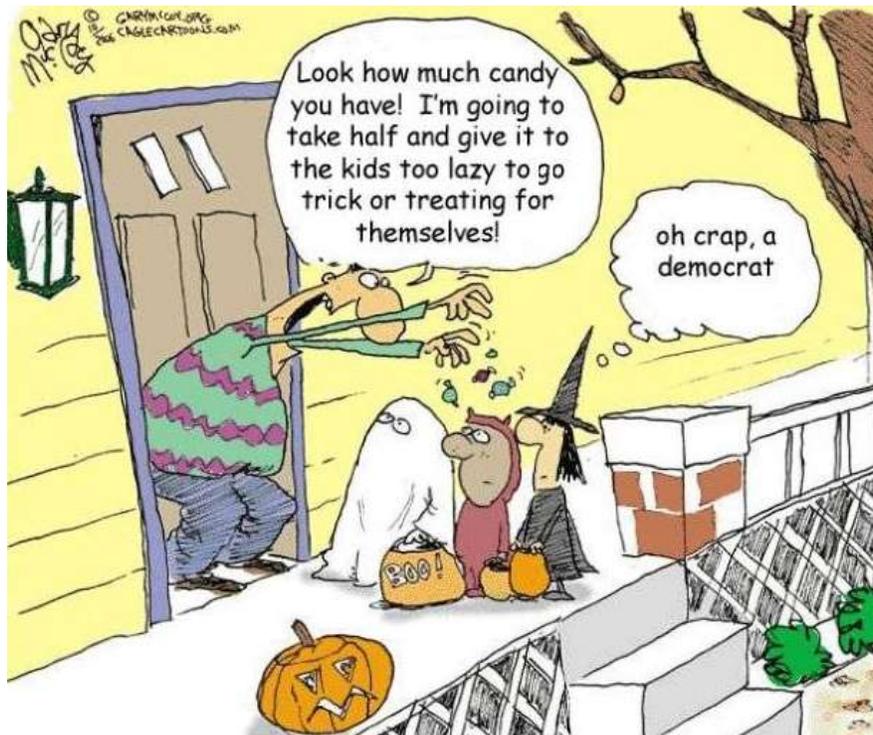
Instead, they attacked and belittled a citizen who asked a candidate a question. They think he's stupid or a liar for not understanding that a promised check from a President Obama is more valuable than some pipe dream about future success.

It's funny. When PBS' Gwen Ifill had a straightforward conflict of interest -- her forthcoming book hinges on an Obama presidency -- that should have prevented her from moderating the VP debate, she and her fellow journalists tittered at the critics. All that matters, Ifill and company insisted, are the answers, not the questioner.

That's apparently the standard for people like Gwen the Journalist. But if Joe the Plumber gets revealing but embarrassing answers out of the media's preferred candidate, suddenly the questioner matters more than the answer. And he must be punished.

HALLOWEEN AND DEMOCRAT STUFF

Simply couldn't help myself -- had to show this cartoon



OPEN LETTER TO BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA STUFF

Thanks MB

I know that many of you are sick and tired of this entire political BS but if you read just one more thing between now and next month's election, I urge you to read the following editorial. I don't know who "Michael Masters" is or what he does, but he does write cogently and well. A Google search turns up a Michael Masters who is a lawyer in Philadelphia, but I don't believe that he is the author of this open letter. There is a "Michael C. Masters" who lives in McLean, VA – I presume, but do not know, for sure, that he is the author. However, he didn't show up in any Google searches that I conducted, so I guess he isn't "notorious" enough to be found. I look at that as a good thing, however. On the surface, that suggests he is just another citizen like the rest of us and has no particular ax to grind. However, he HAS done his homework before writing this editorial.

...

To Barack Hussein Obama,

The New York Times carried a story on Saturday, October 4, 2008, that proved you had a significantly closer relationship with Bill Ayers than what you previously admitted. While the issue of your relationship is of concern, the greater concern is that you lied to America about it.

The Chicago Sun reported on May 8, 2008, that FBI records showed that you had a significantly closer relationship with Tony Rezko than what you previously admitted. In the interview, you said that you only saw Mr. Rezko a couple of times a year. The FBI files showed that you saw him weekly. While the issue of your relationship is of concern, the greater concern is that you lied to America about it.

Your speech in Philadelphia on March 18, 2008, about "race" contradicted your statement to Anderson Cooper on March 14 when you said that you never heard Reverend Wright make his negative statements about white America . While your attendance at Trinity Church for 20 years is of concern, the greater concern is that you lied to America on March 14.

In your 1st debate with you never said that you of Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, "preparations" at lower your words in his debate video tape from your shows that you answered meeting with those without "any" judgement about meeting without pre-conditions is concern is that you lied to McCain.

On July 14, 2008, you said surge would work while more than a year ago surge would not work. military strategy as a is of concern, the greater America on July 14.

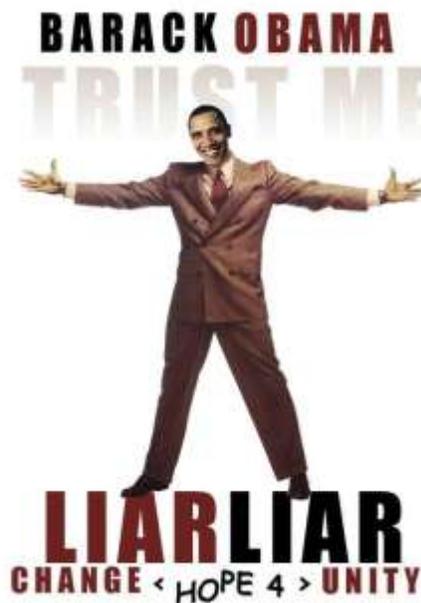
You now claim that your reason for voting against funding for the troops was because the bill did not include a time line for withdrawal, while the video tapes of you from more than a year ago show that you voted against additional funding because you wanted our troops to be removed immediately ... not in 16 months after the 2008 election as you now claim. While your judgement about removing our troops unilaterally in 2007 is of concern, the greater concern is that you lied to America about your previous position.

You claim to have a record of working with Republicans while the record shows that the only bill that you sponsored with a Republican was with Chuck Lugar ... and it failed.

The record shows that you vote 97% in concert with the Democrat party and that you have the most liberal voting record in the Senate. You joined Republicans only 13% of the time in your votes and those 13% were only after agreement from the Democrat party. While it is of concern that you fail to include conservatives in your actions and that you are such a liberal, the greater concern is that you distorted the truth.

In the primary debates of last February, 2008, you claimed to have talked with a "Captain" of a platoon in Afghanistan "the other day" when in fact you had a discussion in 2003 with a Lieutenant who had just been deployed to Afghanistan . You lied in that debate.

In your debates last spring, you claimed to have been a professor of Constitutional law" when in fact you have never been a professor of Constitutional law. In this last debate, you were careful to say that you "taught a law class" and never mentioned being a "professor of Constitutional law." You lied last spring.



John McCain, you said that would meet with the leaders and North Korea without levels ... Joe Biden repeated with Sarah Palin ... while the debate last February clearly "I would" to the question of leaders within 12 months preconditions. While your with enemies of the USA of concern, the greater America in the debate with

that you always knew that the the video tapes of you from show that you stated that the While your judgement about potential commander-in-chief concern is that you lied to

You and Joe Biden both claimed that John McCain voted against additional funding for our troops when the actual records show the opposite. You distorted the truth.

You and Joe Biden claim that John McCain voted against funding for alternate energy sources 20 times when the record shows that John McCain specifically voted against funding for bio fuels, especially corn ... and he was right.... corn is too expensive at producing ethanol, and using corn to make ethanol increased the price of corn from \$2 a bushel to \$6 a bushel for food. You distorted the truth.

You and Joe Biden claim that John McCain voted like both of you for a tax increase on those making as little as \$42,000 per year while the voting record clearly shows that John McCain did not vote as you and Joe Biden. You lied to America.

You and Joe Biden claim that John McCain voted with George W. Bush 90% of the time when you know that Democrats also vote 90% of the time with the President (including Joe Biden) because the vast majority of the votes are procedural. You are one of the few who has not voted 90% of the time with the president because you have been missing from the Senate since the day you got elected. While your absence from your job in the Senate is of concern, the greater concern is that you spin the facts.



You did not take an active role in the rescue plan. You claimed that the Senate did not need you while the real reason that you abstained was because of your close relationships with the executives of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Countrywide, and Acorn ... who all helped cause the financial problems of today ... and they all made major contributions to your campaign. While your relationship with these executives and your protection of them for your brief 3 years in the Senate (along with Barney Frank, Chuck Schumer, Maxine Waters, and Chris Dodd) is of concern, the greater concern is that you are being deceitful.

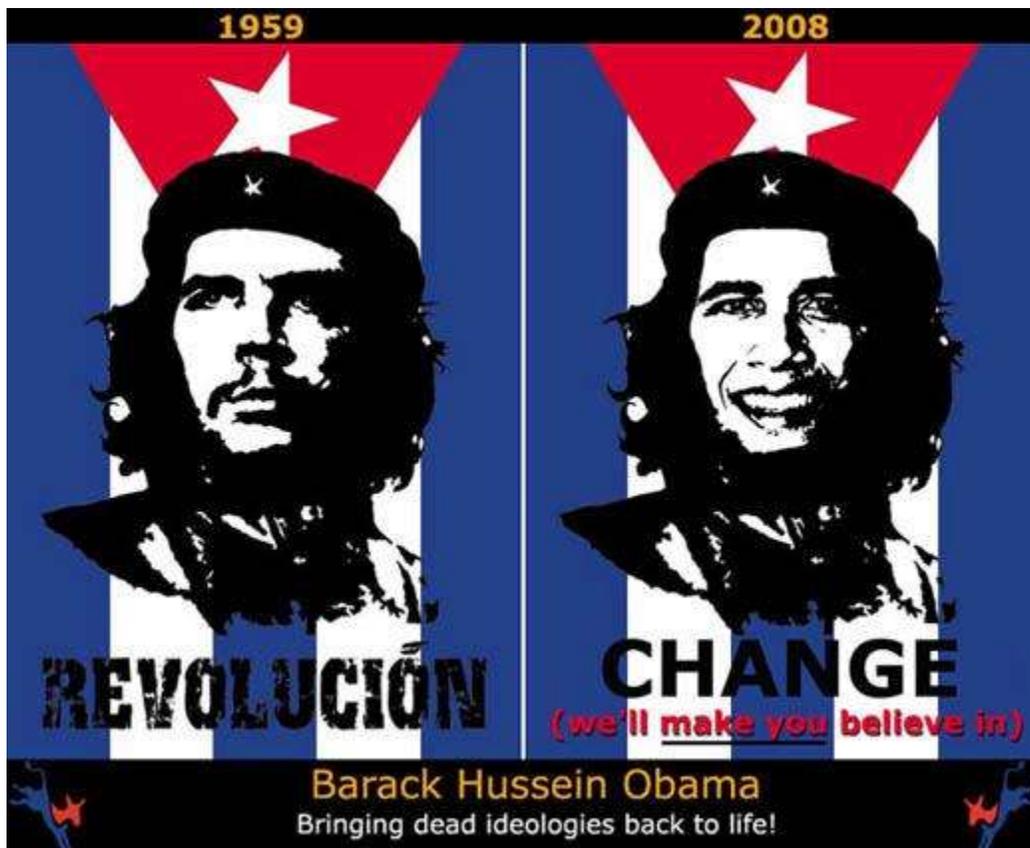
You forgot to mention that you personally represented Tony Rezko and Acorn. Tony Rezko, an Arab and close friend to you, was convicted of fraud in Chicago real estate transactions that bilked millions of tax dollars from the Illinois government for renovation projects that you sponsored as a state senator ... and Acorn has been convicted of voter fraud, real estate sub prime loan intimidation, and illegal campaign contributions. Tony Rezko has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to your political campaigns. You personally used your political positions to steer money to both Tony Rezko and Acorn and you used Acorn to register thousands of phony voters for Democrats and you. While your relationships with Rezko and Acorn are of concern, the greater concern is that you omitted important facts about your relationships with them to America .

During your campaign, you said: "typical white person." "They cling to their guns and religion." "They will say that I am black."

You played the race card. You tried to label any criticism about you as racist. You divide America .

You claim that you will reduce taxes for 95% of America , but you forgot to tell America that those reductions are after you remove the Bush tax reductions. You have requested close to \$1 billion in earmarks and several million for Acorn. Your social programs will cost America \$1 trillion per year and you claim that a reduction in military spending (\$100 billion for Iraq) can pay for it.

While your economic plan of adding 30% to the size of our federal government is of concern, the greater concern is that you are deceiving America.



The drain to America's economy by foreign supplied oil is \$700 billion per year (5% of GDP) while the war in Iraq is \$100 billion (less than 1% of GDP). You voted against any increases to oil exploration for the last 3 years and any expansion of nuclear facilities. Yet today, you say that you have always been for more oil and more nuclear. You are lying to America.

Mr. Obama, you claimed that you "changed" your mind about public financing for your campaign because of the money spent by Republican PACs in 2004. The truth is that the Democrat PACs in 2004, 2006, and 2008 spent twice as much as the Republican PACs (especially George Soros and MoveOn.org). You are lying to America .

Mr. Obama, you have done nothing to stop the actions of the teachers union and college professors in the USA . They eliminated religion from our history. They teach pro gay agendas and discuss sex with students as young as first grade. They bring their personal politics into the classrooms. They disparage conservatives. They brainwash our children. They are in it for themselves not America Are you reluctant to condemn their actions because teachers/professors and the NEA contribute 25% of all money donated to Democrats and none to Republicans? You are deceiving America .

Oh, Mr. Obama, Teddy Roosevelt said about a hundred years ago that we Americans should first look at the character of our leaders before anything else.

Your character looks horrible. While you make good speeches, motivating speeches, your character does not match your rhetoric. You talk the talk, but do not walk the walk.

1. You lied to America. You lied many times. You distorted facts. You parsed your answers like a lawyer.
2. You distorted the record of John McCain in your words and in your advertisements.
3. You had associations with some very bad people for your personal political gains and then lied about those associations.
4. You divide America about race and about class.

Now let me compare your record of lies, distortions, race baiting, and associations to John McCain: War hero. Annapolis graduate with "Country first." Operational leadership experience like all 43 previously elected presidents of the USA as a Navy officer for 22 years. 26 years in the Senate. Straight talk. Maverick. 54% of the time participated on bills with Democrats. Never asked for an earmark. The only blemish on his record is his part in the Keating 5 debacle about 25 years ago.

Mr. Obama, at Harvard Law School , you learned that the end does not justify the means. You learned that perjury, false witness, dishonesty, distortion of truth are never tolerated. Yet, your dishonesty is overwhelming. Your dishonesty is tremendously greater than the dishonesty that caused the impeachment and disbarment of Bill Clinton. Your dishonesty is tremendously greater than the dishonesty of Scooter Libby. You should be ashamed.

Mr. Obama, it is time for us Americans to put aside our differences on political issues and vote against you because of your dishonest character. It is time for all of us Americans to put aside our political issues and vote for America first. It is time for America to vote for honesty.

Any people who vote for you after understanding that you are dishonest should be ashamed of themselves for making their personal political issues more important than character. Would these same people vote for the anti-Christ if the anti-Christ promised them riches? Would they

BARACK OBAMA'S Magic Pencil™

Fueled by the same Elven magic that powers the rest of Obama's campaign, this stylish tool allows you to record your true beliefs without all that pesky future accountability.



make a golden calf while Moses was up the mountain? Would they hire someone for a job if that someone lied in an interview?

Of course not. So why do some of these people justify their votes for you even though they know you are dishonest? Why do they excuse your dishonesty? Because some of these people are frightened about the future, the economy, and their financial security and you are preying on their fears with empty promises ... and because some (especially our young people) are consumed by your wonderful style and promises for "change" like

the Germans who voted for Adolf Hitler in 1932. The greed/envy by Germans in 1932 kept them from recognizing Hitler for who he was. They loved his style. Greed and envy are keeping many Americans from recognizing you ... your style has camouflaged your dishonesty but many of us see you for who you really are ... and we will not stop exposing who you are every day, forever if it is necessary.

Mr. Obama, you are dishonest. Anyone who votes for you is enabling dishonesty.

Mr. Obama, America cannot trust that you will put America first in your decisions about the future.

Mr. Obama, you are not the "change" that America deserves. We cannot trust you.

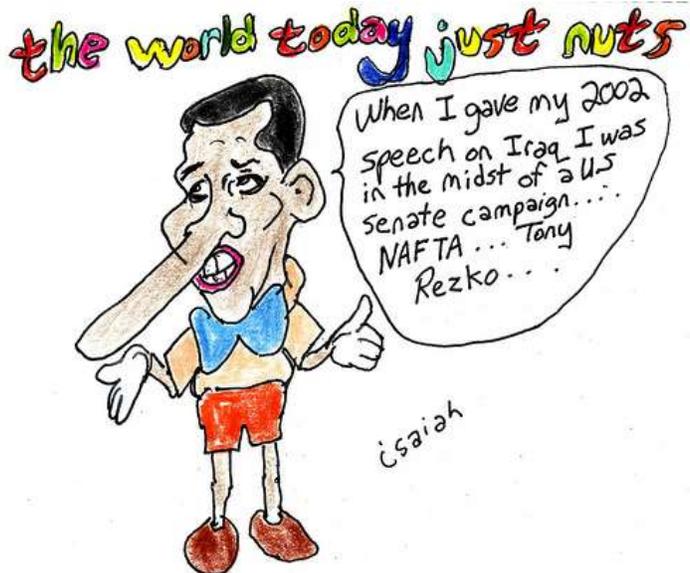
Mr. Obama, You are not ready and not fit to be commander-in-chief.

Mr. Obama, John McCain does not have as much money as your campaign to refute all of your false statements. And for whatever reasons, the mainstream media will not give adequate coverage or research about your lies, distortions, bad associations, race baiting, lack of operational leadership experience, and generally dishonest character. The media is diverting our attention from your relationships and ignoring the fact that you lied about those relationships. The fact that you lied is much more important than the relationships themselves just like with Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon ... Monica Lewinski and Watergate were not nearly as bad as the fact that those men lied about the events ... false witness ... perjury ... your relationships and bad judgements are bad on their own ... but your lies are even worse.

Therefore, by copy of this memo, all who read this memo are asked to send it to everyone else in America before it is too late. We need to do the job that the media will not do. We need to expose your dishonesty so that every person in America understands who you really are before Election Day.

Mr. Obama, in a democracy, we get what we deserve. And God help America if we deserve you.

Michael Masters



P.S. I might also add that Farrikhhan, among other things, refers to Obama as the Messiah....

ED (EXCESSIVE DISHONESTY) GOT YOU DOWN STUFF

* 60 Obama claims he wants a vigorous and open debate on the issues: then goes out of his way to avoid it

* 59 Obama omits key details about a false rumor re video of Michelle's "whitey" rant to justify breaking his public funding promise

* 58 Obama tries to deceive about why he voted "present" more than 100 times in the Illinois Senate; Chicago paper reveals the truth

* 57 Trying to claim patriotism Obama says his granddad signed up the day after Pearl Harbor; army records disagree

* 56 Claims race and party not important to how people vote as they put America first; 93% block vote disproves

* 55 On June 5, Obama stated that Israel must remain uninvited; June 6 on CNN he reversed his position

* 54 To further his own agenda, Obama grossly overstates the number of potential American American lives in MS, GA, SC

* 53 Promise of \$2500 reduction in healthcare premiums needs billions in admin cost savings by 2012 not possible

* 52 Obama omits to mention US forced trip to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan until it stayed out of the U.S. - Dr. Clinton

* 51 Obama claims McCain wants to wage a lengthy war in Iraq; Video proves Obama's lying

* 50 Obama claimed he never prayed in a mosque; his campaign had to retract that statement

* 49 Obama dishonestly used endorsements in ads to pump up his healthcare plan

* 48 Claims he never discussed politics with Pastor; rebutted by photo of Obama with team of lobbyists led by Wright

* 47 Obama, an expert at parsing words, claimed he wasn't familiar with the word "Clintonian"; then changed his story

* 46 Despite reeking of cigarettes, Obama denied smoking to ABC; now admits smoking on MSNBC

* 45 Obama said he'd meet unconditionally with leader of Iran; now claims he "didn't have Ahmadinejad in mind"

* 44 Obama claims he is using public financing to favor special interests; WSJ nails his own chero

* 43 Obama's rhetoric claims more young black men in jail than college; BO's stats disprove

* 42 Claims he never said he was a proponent of single-payer universal healthcare; Video proves he did

* 41 Obama claims remarks to industrialists were greeted with silence; shows he can deliver tough message: video of ova-

tion

* 40 Obamas claim you dont rip open your chest to leave on roadside; he did to Alice Palmer

* 39 Obama denies saying Indiana was a state-breaker; he did

* 38 Obama omits that Pastor Wright was a major part of his campaign from Israel

* 37 Obama claims Church not closed since 86

* 36 Lied about intention of taking Obama to the White House

* 35 Obamas claim poverty growing; reality is that it's declining

* 34 Obama denies meeting Saddam Hussein from Fox News; party for Auchi at Rezkos

* 33 Obama lies about not attacking Iraq; he did

* 32 Obama claims he passed ethics

* 31 Obama says he's consistently on the right side of history

* 30 Obama claims he's above dirt

* 29 Obama claims his "bitter"

* 28 Obama claims never said

* 27 Obama says he did no fav

* 26 Changes story repeatedly re

* 25 Obama claims he never supp

* 24 Obama claims stays at UCC

* 23 Campaign is beholden to "only

* 22 Claims campaign never called

lied

* 21 Mrs Obama admits she's never been

* 20 Claimed would not run for President

* 19 Claims famous in IL for not letting le

* 18 Claims his parents met at Selma civil

* 17 BO claims courageously opposed war in

2003

* 16 Claims he passes tough Nuclear Law, NY

* 15 Claimed he didn't know Rezko was corrupt; did a real estate deal with him; Chicago papers prove he lied

* 14 Claims does not accept money from Big Oil; Real Clear Politics proves he lied

* 13 Denies using his Hopefund PAC to influence endorsements; but the Washington Post reviewed the record and disagreed

* 12 Claims his State Chair is not a drug company lobbyist; Time magazine series bullsh

* 11 Lies about how much he received in campaign funds from Rezko; forced to significantly increase the amount twice

* 10 Claims he did not fill out the 1996 candidate questionnaire; Politico proves he lied

* 9 Took credit for achievement of others in Chicago; resume confirms exposed by LA Times

* 8 Claims he kept no State Senate records; Chicago Herald Expositor proves he lied

* 7 Denies doubling wife's salary while receiving US Academy honors; film proves he earmarked \$1 million for hospital

tal

* 6 Denied meeting Saddam bagman Auchi; now admits he was at his dinner but does not remember talking to him

* 5 Denies using his church for politics; IRS disagrees

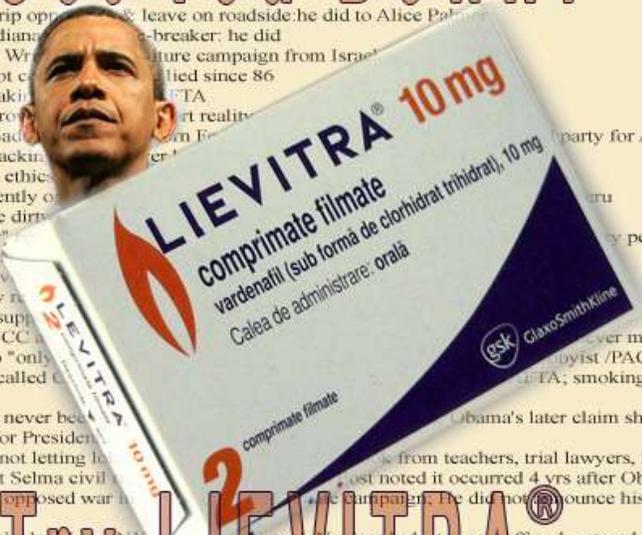
* 4 Claims he was unaware of Pastor Wright's involvement with the campaign; WSJ proves he lied

* 3 Claims his father was a goat-herd; actually he was a man of privilege

* 2 Claims not an active muslim as child; Indonesian paper proves he lied

* 1 Claims father linked to Kennedys; Washington Post proves he lied

ED (EXCESSIVE DISHONESTY) GOT YOU DOWN STUFF



TOO EXCESSIVE DISHONESTY

because experience is not important...

FINAL THOUGHT STUFF

Random Thoughts (as if I have any other)...

..what can I say?

...half of the country has gone literally brain-dead...ignoring facts...in turn, following the media like lemmings into the Arctic Sea...

...like I tell folks it bothers me less that he might get elected versus the fact that citizens of this great country are willing to vote for him...

...fact is, I don't think most folks realize they are moving this country so far left that with a reasonable tipping point we could become the next great Socialist country (ED: though Russia is certainly trying to make a comeback, but mark my words will manifest itself this time as Fashist)...

...fact is, folks simply are:

- Not being told the facts
- Those facts they are being told are distortions
- Ignoring the facts
- Have zero interest in personal research

...again, a majority of our country have become cognizant wastelands without any interest, much less capability, in "thinking things through"...

...I've tried to talk to the Left, really have tried...to simply understand their "thought process"...

...I've done it nicely, patiently, with a sincere desire to understand what could make them think the way they do...

...and unfortunately, I now realize that they don't have a "thought process" – they have a "feeling mantra" – you know, "hate Bush", "love Obama" ...that simple...

...what can I say?

...I feel that I may have to start using "Comrade" every time I address someone in the future...

...will I be forced to sit through "Government Indoctrination Classes"?...

...we are in for a scary time if the Left controls the White House, the Senate, and the House – can you only imagine what kind of lunatic programs they have planned...

...on a lighter note, been listening to Christmas music all morning along brought to you by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra...I do love Christmas...not the presents and the shopping, but the "Reason for the Season", the spirit of the times, the emotions it renders...lot more to talk about as we enter the Season...

...anyways, all we can do is what we always do, pray to God that he continues to bless this country...

Reflectively Yours,

Don

EXPLANATORY – YET POIGNANT - DISCLAIMER

For those new to this mailing, this Stuff memo is an ongoing email that I periodically send out for no other reason than to synthesize all the "stuff" I read as well as express my views on the world in general and life in specific.

It serves as an intellectual catharsis, an emotional catholicon, and a spiritual revivification.

Bottom line, this is simply the way that I soothe the synapses.

If you decide you don't want to receive, simply reply with a "Thank You, No Thank You" and you'll be removed from the mailing list.