

## Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of February 26, 2009

### Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire

Listen up America: we have elected to the White House a liar, and not just any liar; this guy is the real McCoy.

Now Obama is not the first president to lie to the American people. LBJ staffers coined a phrase, "the credibility gap" just in order to cover his lying.

I predict that before it is all over Barack Obama will outdistance LBJ. The credibility gap will widen.

Just the other day I had to shake myself to see if I was dreaming.

On Tuesday of this week, before a gathering of Obama supporters in Florida, the President of the United States, the leader of the free world was heard to say: "**This bill** [the super-gazillion dollar stimulus bill] **has no ear marks in it.**"

Now that is a whopper. The Liars Club of America would be honored to enlist Obama among its members. How can a lie like that ever be topped? I can just picture Baron Munchausen all green with envy.

Space does not permit a listing of all the ear marks in this bill. Suffice it to say that the bill originally contained items that were to serve only one purpose: Obama wanted to pay back the people who helped get him elected.
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### Humpty Dumpty in the White House

We now have a president that thinks that American voters are idiots. To explain what I mean let me refresh your memory about a character in the classic *Through the Looking Glass* commonly referred to as Alice in Wonderland. The character I have in mind is Humpty Dumpty.

He speaks,

"When I use a word . . . it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master - that's all."

In other words if I choose as master, or president, to have my way with people, all I have to do is redefine what “ear mark” means, and in that way I can mislead the American public. I can lie without lying, fib without fibbing, prevaricate without prevaricating, and know all the while that this “stimulus” bill has been filled with ear marks from one end to the other.

I have to ask a question. Isn't it true that Obama wanted this bill passed when its ear marks were called by their proper name? If Obama is not lying and this bill has no ear marks [pshaw!] then he should not get the credit. The credit for that should go to the Conservatives in Congress.

### **An Ear Mark Is an Ear Mark Is an Ear Mark**

Humpty Dumpty has introduced us to what scholars refer to as *usus-loquendi*, or the way in which a user can depart from the typical meaning we attach to a word or phrase because we are no longer bound by its root meaning (etymology).

President Bill Clinton knew all about this when he claimed he never had “sex with that woman,” Monica Lewinsky who infamously held on to her soiled dress. According to Clinton, it all depends on the way you define sex. If you give sex the traditional definition then he had sex with her. However he refused to define sex as others have, thus he did not have sex with Lewinsky which would mean that he never perjured himself. The Arkansas Bar Association judged it differently.

### **So How Do You Define an Ear Mark?**

An ear mark is an allotment of tax money. A said amount of money is predetermined or set aside for a specific purpose. It can be a bridge or something that in most cases is not part of the ordinary budget - things such as defense or education.

House Representatives and Senators will do just about anything to see to it that federal tax monies are devoted to projects in which they have a vested interest for one reason or another. As a matter of fact politicians are known for trading votes in order to see to it that their ear marks are approved. You scratch my back, and I will scratch yours. In that way we will help to pad each others state budgets, etc., which means that we will both look good to our constituents. And what's more after leaving office, those profiting from these pet projects will be obliged and see to it that the politicians land cushy jobs. They can become a lobbyist or a consultant and in that way make ten times what they earned as elected officials.

Ear marks are common. They are referred to as “pork” or “pork-barrel spending.” Pork in America is not like beef. It is something that most Americans believe they can do without; we are beef eaters. Likewise ear marks are things that most of us believe we can do without, like a bridge that Alaskan politicians wanted to build that would go “nowhere” to an island with just a few inhabitants.

I suppose the most outlandish ear mark ever to come up in recent times is one that has been included in the bill Obama is trying to sell to the American public. It may seem as if I am making this up, but the bill includes a FIFTY MILLION dollar allotment. The money will go

toward the construction of a museum in Las Vegas. Is the museum about our founding fathers, or Abraham Lincoln whose bi-centennial birth we are about to celebrate, no, the museum will be devoted to the villainous history of the MOB.

This stimulus bill is loaded with such ear marks which means that Obama is a liar. He lies on par with Hillary and Bill Clinton do, frequently and without compunction.

### **Chickens Always Come Home to Roost**

Lies always catch up with you. This is why veteran newscaster and commentator Bob Grant recently said that politicians “should not tell stories, and that if Hillary had not lied about her experiences in Kosovo she would have won the nomination.”

We can now safely predict that Obama who also tells stories, some that even throw his grandma under the bus, will be a one-term president. Already people are calling for his impeachment.

Obama is about to welcome into his barnyard a flock of chickens. His greatest mistake as president so far is to assume that we do not know what an ear mark is. Therefore he not only lied, he insulted us.

Someone listed a number of lies told by Obama while he was campaigning. Should we think that Obama is going to change now that he is the president? We may expect more half-truths and what can be called outright lies from the man who promised change.

Ever yours,

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