

## Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of March 24, 2011

written 3/21/11, Monday

### **O Bummer! Obama Is a Bomber!**

*The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.*

*So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith.*

*Here let us stop.*

*Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none; or a very remote relation.*

*Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies,*

*the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns.*

*Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities. George Washington 1732-99*

America does not have a two political party system. There seems only to be one party, the war party. No matter who we elect we seem to always get a sword rattler: a Teddy Roosevelt, a LBJ, a George Bush. Woodrow Wilson said he would keep us out of war in Europe, but did he? The advice he was given by his Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan would certainly have kept us out of the First World War. Bryan's sage advice was sacrificed in the interests of Wall Street. I think that these presidents hear two voices; one in one ear, one in the other. The one says "follow reason;" the other says "follow money." The latter seems to always win out especially if our allies claim that they have a corner on reason, or if they can make it look as if their motives are as pure as the driven snow.

Winston Churchill said that the Second World War was the most preventable war in history. Then along came Bush 43 and the war in Iraq. Now we have Barack Obama, who when he ran for president assured all war hawks that he was not against war per se, but against "stupid wars."

I ask you, is it not stupid to partner with the French and English, who sensing that they had a soft target, and who have once more proven that they have never been cured of jingoism, so that they pushed ahead with their own version of shock-and-awe attacking the forces of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi whose helpless men have become sitting targets?

Why do we feel that it is necessary to help the French and English? We owe them nothing. I never met one Brit in all my years in England that had the decency to say "thank you" to America for delivering Britain from the German war machine not once, but twice. The French are no better. Both countries owe us big time!

Naturally Neo-cons like Dick Cheney are delighted now that Obama has become a bombardier. They love wars in which they do none of the fighting; Cheney had seven deferments in the Vietnam era.

Someone will say that this act of aggression was not unilateral, and that Obama acted in consort with the United Nations when he told the U.S. Navy to lob 110 cruise missiles into Libya. I have to ask, what difference does that make? Corporate wrong-doing is no less heinous than individual wrong-doing. Wrong is wrong.

Is America tied to the UN as if to say that its agreed-on-actions must be thought of as judicious? Has the New World Order arrived with headquarters on the East side of Manhattan? Has the UN Security Council become the world's oligarchy; is it the unimpeachable authority on right and wrong?

Who gave the UN the right to interfere in the workings of a sovereign nation recently plunged into a civil war, a nation that under the leadership of Gaddafi voluntarily terminated its nuclear program, who proved by his actions that he had also sworn off terrorism?

Why don't we interfere in Iran which has not followed his example, which at this very moment is building a bomb, one that everyone knows it intends to use? Where were we when unarmed protesters in Iran were being murdered by government goons in the immediate past?

What business do we or anyone have to tell Gaddafi that he cannot fire on rebels that have taken up arms against their own government, which by the way has a **General People's Congress** that is duly elected every four years, a pertinent fact which the media has not mentioned for obvious reasons.

**Fact:** The rebels have formed themselves into a standing army with weapons. These are not peaceful protests. This is treason.

**Fact:** Some of the rebels are Islamists, America's sworn enemies.

**Fact:** The fall of the Egyptian government has led to the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood just as we thought it would, so why do we think that the rebels who want to replace Gaddafi will be better than he? Things may get worse.

Did President Abraham Lincoln have the right to form the Army of the Potomac when faced with the Confederacy's rebellion? Does Colonel Gaddafi have the same rights Lincoln had who suspended habeas corpus, and if not, why not? [Even though I seem to compare Lincoln and Gaddafi, I have not forgotten Gaddafi's involvement in the Pan Am airplane bombing which crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland.]

Suppose a bunch of armed para-military units marched on Washington, D.C. as a group with tanks and a few planes? What would Obama do then? Would he defend Washington with tanks

and planes as Gaddafi has the capital city of Tripoli? Janet Reno, Attorney General to President Bill Clinton, used tanks against civilians in Texas when they attacked the headquarters of the Branch Davidian, an offbeat religious sect with weapons.

### **Peace Prize?**

Obama took home the Nobel Peace Prize. How does that look now? Just think of it, 110 cruise missiles, that can rip apart hundreds if not thousands of lives in a matter of minutes, were fired into Libya and at men who were fighting for their country.

I heard that only twenty hit their target. What happened to the other 90? Did they hit civilians? The same civilians that Obama says he wants to protect. Who is he kidding? This is not about protecting civilians it is about oil or some covert agenda.

### **Different Age, Same Problem**

In a certain sense Europe has been replaced by the Middle East. What do I mean?

Pamphleteer Thomas Paine's wish has been realized; the Europeans have formed a union. Paine [1737-1809] called for a union of this kind during the latter half of the 18th century. Now these exporters of sloth, socialism, and sex, that we call Europeans no longer quarrel over national boundaries. But you have guessed it; once again they have gotten us into one of their quarrels. Europe has a problem with Libya, not America, and that is why we are firing missiles from Navy ships.

### **Legal or Illegal**

The War Powers Provision of 1973 came about after the U.S. Congress, by a two-thirds majority, set aside President Richard Nixon's veto of this provision because Congress demanded its implementation. The War Powers Provision means that the President can only send U.S. troops into action abroad if he has the approval of Congress, or if the United States is under attack. Congress must be notified at least 48 hours in advance if the President wants to fire missiles into Libya, a country that has never in any formal way attacked America. We were not under attack when Obama told the military to do its thing.

Did Obama give such notice, and did he get the approval of Congress? If he complied with the provisions in the War Powers Act then we will have to replace Congress along with Obama because it too likes "stupid wars." If he did not comply with the War Powers Act then we can get rid of him now and not have to wait until 2012. Soon is not soon enough.

It could be that Obama has again demonstrated that he has no regard for the law. Recently he said that he would no longer defend DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act (passed by Congress in 1996). The Act itself is not wishful thinking on the part of decent people in government; it is federal law. Surely that is an impeachable offense if Obama is ever given the opportunity back away from DOMA.

Next go around we should elect a president who refuses to become a lackey for the English and French.

Next go around we should elect a president whose ideas on “gay marriage” are not as he says “evolving” which has to mean that Obama is not just a bomber, but a buffoon.

Ever yours,

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