

Yankee Steve's Column
for the Week of December 9, 2010

Hybrids in Government

A hybrid plant is made up of at least two other plants. Out of the two original plants there comes a new species. Only a trained botanist could tell you if it is a hybrid or if it came that way from the hand of the Creator. The same can be said of certain politicians. It takes someone trained in the art of horse trading and politics to see if a politician is after all a hybrid.

The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives has created a third species. It is neither Democrat nor Republican, liberal or conservative. By any reckoning it is unnatural.

There are the real Democrats. They look back longingly to Eugene Debs and the Socialist Party of America that for all intents and purposes joined up with the Democrats so they could stylize the government as a safety net for people.

Across the aisle are the real Republicans. They look back to President Calvin Coolidge who believed that the government should keep its hands off the private sector, whose doctrine was self-reliance.

Hybrids are different. On occasion they may use the kind of rhetoric that allows you to think that they represent the Left or as the case may be the Right. However, what makes a politician a Democrat or a conservative has been compromised.

This brings us to the present debate on the Bush tax cuts that will expire at the end of this fiscal year.

President Barack Obama as you may already know wanted to end the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. Arguing from a specious kind of logic which says that the rich should be required to pay more in taxes just because they are rich Obama wanted to beat up on the richest Americans. He has much support for this kind of logic among Democrats in the House of Representatives who normally rubber stamp whatever he says.

The Republicans want to keep the tax cuts in place for all Americans arguing that the rich will invest their money to create jobs, and that revenues will increase because the newly employed will have to pay their share of the tax burden. Republicans are against class warfare. The rich should not be punished just because they can be bilked.

Obama has been willing to compromise, and he expects the people on the right to do the same. He is now Obama the botanist. The White House has become his Hot House.

Obama will keep the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans in place if the Republicans agree to extend unemployment benefits to millions of Americans. An agreement has been reached.

Many of the House Democrats are livid.

Be that as it may I am of the opinion that Obama believes he has mastered the Republicans. Maybe he has. Democrats like Obama know that unless the Republicans had gotten their way that all the Bush tax cuts would have ended. In the middle of a recession that would have been disastrous politically. The average earners to whom Obama promised tax breaks will no doubt be pleased. Therefore Obama, who has been courting the middle class, thinks he is in line for a second victory at the polls in 2012.

Obama was heard to say, "Hot dog, I outsmarted the Right!" No, what he remarked was, "This country was founded on compromise."

Was it Mr. President?

I see no compromise in the minutes of the First Continental Congress which drafted the U.S. Constitution. I see men who stood their ground, who wanted to keep government small, who refused to permit the Federal Government from having the right to veto laws created by the states. The Founders of this nation were not given to compromise. Be damned by everyone, but be right in your own eyes.

Compromise stinks. Obama met the Republicans halfway because a tax hike for all Americans would have been politically disadvantageous. The Republicans lost. Obama won.

If the Republicans had not compromised, tax increases for all Americans would have taken place which in turn would mean that the Bush tax cuts (one of his few achievements) would have been revealed as good for the economy.

In other words the leftist ideology which does not link national prosperity to low taxes would have been shown for what it is - a foolish idea hatched in the minds of some ignorant people who sit on the Left.

Let the Left stay on the left, and let the Right stay on the right. No more compromises!

This compromise was nothing short of a Pyrrhic victory. We can't afford victories of this kind.

Ever yours,

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