

## Yankee Steve's Column

for the week of February 4, 2010

### **Are You Preaching at Me?**

Good preachers rarely if ever refer to themselves in their sermons. In his State of the Union message President Barack Obama mentioned himself 114 times. I consider that interesting and somewhat scary. Certainly it tells us much about the man.

I think Obama would mate with himself if it were possible biologically. However, this display of narcissism has worked to his advantage. Obama became president because he convinced voters to think about him in the way he does. Obama actually believes that he can make a contribution to America. His self-absorption blinded him to the fact that he was getting in over his head; therefore he may have entered the White House with the thinnest resume of any modern chief executive.

Voters listened to his rhetoric. They did not know that he was talking jive.

Obama has tried to give the impression that he is after all a centrist, and that he has been both misunderstood and misrepresented. Just after he gave the SOTU he told a gathering of Republicans that people are acting as if his healthcare reforms are part of a "Bolshevik plot." Mr. President, I will give you this, Demosthenes couldn't have used subtlety any better. This was a disarming tactic and it may have worked on those who do not know what you are really attempting. You are as far to the left now as you always were. Nothing has changed. Your speech demonstrated that you are still pushing socialized medicine, Cap and Trade, and centralized economic planning.

One journalist said that America elected Obama with the hope that he would "change Washington, D.C., only to discover that Obama wants to change America." But change it into what? Apparently Obama wants to change our country into something that resembles Europe. Obama is a European-style Socialist, but this is not France or Great Britain, this is America!

Maybe someone should tell the President that Americans do not think that it needs to be changed. What we must change is our elected officials.

### **Passing the Buck**

In his speech Obama played a contemptible blame game. Obama presented himself as if he were above the fray, an interested observer that has been patient with a slow-footed Congress. In other words he could have achieved more during the last year if Congress had not held him back. Could it be that Obama called for things that are off the wall, like a government-run healthcare system, Cap and Trade, and fiscal bail-outs that will probably lead America into insolvency? His

radical agenda has not only fired up the Republicans, but members of his own party have deserted him.

Journalist Charles Krauthammer quipped that there were so many Democrats in Congress that if they wanted to they could have legislated that Italian would be the official language of the U.S. Let's put the blame where it belongs with the President. He is no leader.

### **Getting Even and Not Knowing the Facts**

I am qualified to teach the subject of preaching. Experience has shown that preachers can bring with them into the pulpit unresolved hostilities. Consequently, they will waste valuable pulpit time. The sermon is turned in the direction of someone or some group that irks them. Here is another reason why Obama would make a miserable preacher.

Obama scolded the Supreme Court because it reversed the McCain-Feingold prohibition on free speech and campaign contributions. This may have been the most undignified display of hubris that any of us have ever witnessed. I would expect this from a street punk but not from the President of the United States. My mind went back to the Caesars of Rome who would stand out of respect when the Senators filed in; Obama would not understand such a display of humility.

Not only did Obama scold the justices; he misrepresented them. Apparently he has not taken the time to read and understand the ruling that was passed down. Again we see why Obama would not be a capable preacher. Preachers must prepare sermons based on sound research.

The ruling in question does not, as Obama stated, allow contributors to buy an election.

No wonder Justice Samuel Alito mouthed the words "not true," which reminds us of Congressman Joe Wilson [R-SC] who yelled out "You lie" when Obama tried to pull the wool over our eyes by telling us that his healthcare reforms would not provide illegal aliens with entitlements.

Regarding the ruling in question Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority. He said, "There is no basis for the proposition that, in the political speech context, the government may impose restrictions on certain disfavored speakers . . . The government may regulate corporate speech through disclaimer and disclosure requirements, but it may not suppress that speech altogether."

The following statement from David N. Bossie, President of Citizens United is worth noting.

"Today's U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing Citizens United to air its documentary films and advertisements is a tremendous victory, not only for Citizens United but for every American who desires to participate in the political process.

As our case amply demonstrates, campaign finance legislation over the last two decades has imposed, as Justice Kennedy put it, a ‘censorship . . . vast in its reach.’ By overruling *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce* and striking down McCain-Feingold’s ban on so-called electioneering communications, the Supreme Court has made possible the participation in our political process that is the right of every American citizen – a right that had been severely curtailed under McCain-Feingold.

This is a victory for Citizens United, but even more so for the First Amendment rights of all Americans. The fault line on this issue does not split liberals and conservatives or Republicans and Democrats. Instead, it pits entrenched establishment politicians against the very people whom they are elected to serve.”

Reality Calling posted a sage remark: It was Obama's campaign that knowingly took foreign contributions by accepting tens of millions of laundered VISA card donations from anywhere buoyed by their disabling of the address confirmation software used by honest campaigns.

### **The True State of the Union**

**War:** The most important thing about America at this time is the fact that we are engaged in wars on two different fronts, and that over the last 70 years we have gone from one war to another. What does this mean for the Union? It means that we will very likely lose our democracy. “No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.” [James Madison]

**Economy:** In his campaign against Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan would ask his audiences, “Are you better off today than you were four years ago?” The same question if it were posed now, “Are you better off today than when Obama took office a year ago?” would be an resolute, No!” Employment was supposed to have been kept to eight percent because of the bail-outs. Now employment has reached double digits. Sixteen to eighteen million Americans are out of work.

The government is verging on bankruptcy. When Obama said recently that he would send Haiti \$100 million he knew that he would have to borrow the money. We are broke. We are using our Master Card to pay VISA card. Eventually that will catch up with us.

**Loss of Confidence:** FDR used to say “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” But what are we afraid of? We now fear our own government. Everyone is asking, “What will happen next?” What crazy scheme will follow the bail-out of banks and car companies?

Can we trust the Congress when during a fiscal crisis of almost unequalled proportions it has begun to debate the problem of gays in the military, just so that Obama can pay back the homosexuals that helped to get him elected? Do we really have time for that?

What shall we do? We should do what we have always done in times like these. We must work to change the government.

Ever yours,

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