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Blow Winds, Blow

by
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Well, the new kids on the Washington Congressional House block are not wasting time in getting their ducks in a row preparing for their turn at Congressional leadership beginning in approximately 38 days, depending on when you read this. Nancy Pelosi, the Congress(person) from the highly conservative city of San Francisco, California; the first ever female Speaker of the House and Armani model extraordinaire, has already had her wrists slapped by her charges when they voted in someone other than her nominee for House Majority Whip, Congressman John (Get 'em out) Murtha, from Pennsylvania.

Pelosi said she had to nominate like-thinking Murtha for the position because he believes as she does that American troops should be pulled out of Iraq immediately, and she wasn't taking it personally that her minions voted for Congressman Steny Hoyer from Maryland who has held the number two Democratic position in the House for several years. She wasn't taking it personally but she got the non-verbal message that she wasn't going to have the power she hoped for and that's a good thing for moderate thinkers. Everyone is now watching to see if she will push the envelope again when she appoints the person to head up the House Intelligence Committee.

Rumor has it that she will appoint Rep. Alcee Hastings, one time Federal Judge who was impeached and removed from the bench by Congress years ago for allegedly selling his judicial decisions. Pardoned by Clinton on his leaving the White House, Hastings was elected to Congress and is now the Democrats' second ranking member of the Intelligence Committee. With Intelligence Committee leaks at an all time high the last few years one would think a person of Hasting's reputation would not even be in the running. Nancy Pelosi has vowed to lead the "most honest and ethical Congress" but to even think of putting an impeached Federal Judge in such a sensitive position would seem to decry her statement.

The top ranking Democrat is Rep. Jane Harman, also of California, who has been passed over because she previously supported the war effort in Iraq and voted to continue the National Security Agency's policy of selective listening to suspected terrorists' phone calls. During her primary race Harman got the word that the California Democrat machine was going to pull their support for her, as Connecticut Democrats did with Sen. Joe Lieberman, so she recanted her previous stance and beliefs and once again toed the Democratic line drawn in the political sand by Pelosi and the Washington leadership. This was evidenced in an article written on "Talk Left," an on-line Liberal blog that said, "When confronted with a primary challenge from the left of her party, Rep.

Harman understood that she had lost touch with an important component of her base. And she understood that she needed to find out why; needed to begin a conversation with those party activists and with the net roots community. Not only did she post diaries, she stuck around to comment. Not all of us agreed with her responses, and were adamant in telling her so. But we had an honest exchange of views and, *amazingly, she began to take a harder line against the Bush administration. She came back to being a Democrat.*”

In other words, Rep. Harman gave up her right to be a free thinking human being and put herself back under bondage of those on the liberal left who are still talking “bi-partisanship and compromise” while planning dirty politics as usual. “Talk Left” has suggested that soon to be Speaker Pelosi should appoint both Harman and Hastings as Co-chairs of the Intel Committee so Harman can be a buffer between Hastings and the American public, the Republican Party, and press when they start, correctly so, criticizing Hasting’s past integrity problems.

Another soon-to-be Committee chairman, Charlie Rangel of New York has let his voice be heard as well. As ranking Democratic member on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, he will play an important role in tax initiatives, Social Security legislation, Medicare and other federal handout programs. He has said that any and all tax cuts enacted by the Bush administration will be turned back as they come due. He softened his rhetoric somewhat recently but the end is still the same when he says he will not “reverse the tax cuts” because he will not have to... he will just “not bring them up for a committee vote” and therefore they will die a natural death.

No one knows who will be the Democratic front runner in 2008 but a lot of individuals are lining up at the starting gate to be ready when the bell rings. Many names are being run up the flagpole, primarily by the mainstream media, just to see how the public reacts and, unfortunately, we are not disappointing them with our reaction. It’s unbelievable that one young man, recently elected black Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, who several months ago was just an unknown state legislator in Illinois but, because of his color and very little else, has suddenly been vaulted to the position of having to go through the agony of finding out he is not really the Presidential timber that so many of those fawning over him have told him he is. He has even been linked as a possible Vice-Presidential running mate of the Party’s maternal leader, New York Senator Hillary Clinton.

It will be an interesting two years as we watch Party hopefuls from both sides of the aisle position themselves for the stretch run trying to convince the electorate of their worthiness to be the most powerful leader in the world. Hopefully, when November 2008 rolls around the chaff on both sides will have been blown away by the blustery winds of rhetoric and only the wheat will be left from which the American public may intelligently choose a person, not a party, as the leader we need to place a healing balm on the terminal disease of divisiveness from which this great country is suffering.

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