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National Elections... So Soon?

by
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Here it is 2+ years before the 2008 Presidential Election and already frontrunners are being talked about in both parties. It only seems like yesterday that 2004's election was over... what is it with these politicians? Of course a lot of the talking trash and keeping ducks in the headlines instead of more serious items is all part of the political smarminess designed to get Americans thinking about a need for change in the U.S. Congress, both House and Senate. Democrats feel the Republicans have had the majority too long and its time for a new sheriff in town.

It has been reported that Democrats are desperately trying to put together a 5 or 6 point White Paper to declare just how they plan to take back control of the House and Senate in the 2006 mid-term elections and ultimately the White House in 2008. Some have said, somewhat tongue in cheek, that Democrat leaders Sen. Harry Reid, Congressperson Nancy Pelosi, DNC Chairman Howard Dean, Sen. Hillary Clinton, Past-President Clinton, Sen. Chuck Shumer, Sen. Teddy Kennedy, Sen. Dick Durbin, Sen. John Kerry, Congressman Charlie Rangel, and Civil Rights instigators Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Al Sharpton, plus all round good guy/calypso singer/part time political subversive Harry Belafonte, all came together at a secret meeting to determine the crucial 5-6 point plan that would be the common ground of their grass roots attack.

After several days of intense discussion and soul searching it was determined that there was no common ground and the Democrats only hope for victory was to have Belafonte ask his friend President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela to leak that the United States is preparing to invade Venezuela to take over the oil fields. It is their hope that the American people will rise to the bait and back Wisconsin's Democratic Senator Russ Feingold's demand for President Bush's impeachment.

We shouldn't expect all Democrats to rally around this agenda, however. The party is famously fractious, but the agenda will be particularly useful to candidates seeking election for the first time. Some of those first time candidates, hoping to use their box office appeal to win a political office could be Barbara Streisand, Danny Glover, Richard Dreyfuss, and Alec Baldwin. The Democratic Party seems to be coming apart at the seams with no coherent direction since the loss of their charismatic guru Bill Clinton. He has been pushed to the back of pack so as not to tarnish the dazzling radiance of his strange/estranged wife Hillary. Howard Dean, always one to look for the high ground, took the podium and proudly shrieked, *"It's okay we don't have anything new to offer the country... they'll vote for us because we're not them!"*

Seriously folks, we are entering that time when we will be hearing a lot about how bad the Republicans are and why that's reason enough to vote for any Democrat candidate. Believe me, the Republican Party has made plenty of snafus during their tenure as leaders of the pack but they've also done a great deal of good. Contrary to Democrat fear reports of doom and gloom, economic indicators are still the highest they've been for many years in spite of 9/11, several major natural disasters in the South, and an expensive, intense war that, despite what the nay-sayers proclaim, is achieving the goals we set out. The Nation's employment rose by 243,000 new jobs in February, greater and faster than analysts had expected, while wages rose at their fastest rate since September 2001, giving the nation its lowest unemployment in decades. Un-wed pregnancies are down, teenage abortions are down, drug use is down and taxes are at an all time low.

When we go out and vote let all the candidates know you won't vote for anyone who spends their time telling you what's wrong with their opponent rather than what's right with themselves. It's been rumored that Albert Arnold Gore, Jr. is seriously thinking about throwing his hat into the presidential ring once again and is currently 4th place in a recent poll of Democrat frontrunners for 2008. He comes in at 11.80% behind Hillary's 38.25%, Kerry's 16% and John Edwards 14.25%. Kinda scary isn't it. No new thinkers... no creative geniuses here.

Speaking of frontrunners, did you know that the two frontrunners for President in 2008, on both sides of the aisle are female? Hillary Clinton is leading the Democrat hopefuls while Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who says she's not running, leads the Republican side with 29%, Sen. George Allen, 26%, Rudy Giuliani, 16% and John McCain with 8%. Is the United States ready for a female President? Contrary to popular opinion I would have no qualms voting for Condoleezza Rice. I think she is far superior in every category to Sen. Hillary Clinton and would make a great Commander In Chief.

One musn't forget, however, in addition to the Republican and Democrat Parties there are currently five other recognized, registered parties who oft times run a candidate of their own: Constitution Party; Green Party; Libertarian Party; Prohibition Party; and the Socialist Party USA. The Socialist Party decided not field candidates in recent years since their agenda and that of the Democrat Party were so similar.

Well, gear yourself up for a frenetic and nerve fraying two years coming up, and wear your rain gear because plenty of mud will be flying. But you know what... in spite of all the mud and vinegar in the process... it's still the best system in the world. Dare to be part of it.

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