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“Only In America”

by
Tom Holbrook

Only in America! It was July 27, 2004 at the Fleet Center in Boston, MA when a young Illinois State Legislator, 8 days shy of his 43rd birthday, approached the podium and before thousands of screaming Democratic National Convention delegates delivered one of the most talked about and remembered Keynote Addresses of any political convention. 14 weeks later this same young man would win the election for United States Senator from Illinois. Exactly 1,493 days later he would accept his party’s nomination for Presidency of the United States and 66 days later, at the age of 47, he stood before an audience of untold millions throughout the world and gave his victory speech as the 44th President-Elect of the United States of America. **Only in America!**

An amazing, meteoric rise for any man in the political world but even more amazing is the fact that, Barack Hussein Obama, the son of an Arabic black father of Kenya, and a white American mother from Kansas, is the first black person in the history of the United States to ascend to the highest and most powerful political office in our country.

For America, with an ugly history of black oppression and suppression, this momentous election is indeed an historic one and should speak loudly and clearly that the American credo of... ‘In America anything is possible for anyone, who wants it and is willing to work for it,’ is still true.

With a 14% African-American population in the United States it is obvious that Obama’s victory was an all-American victory, racially speaking, and as he gave his victory speech there were as many tears of joy running down the cheeks of whites as there were blacks... unheard of in American politics. President-Elect Obama is probably the most charismatic candidate we have had in national politics since Teddy Roosevelt, eclipsing even John Kennedy and Bill Clinton, and the look on the faces of his supporters as he spoke Tuesday night, was one of adulation, expectation, and unreserved trust.

Media pundits were not immune to the emotional tug on the heart, especially those of African-American origin who realize the mountaintop feeling of a new dawn and a long held dream finally realized. Juan Williams of Fox News and MSNBC’s Eugene Robinson could hardly contain their tears as they spoke on the importance of this election in the hearts and minds of fellow blacks in America. Many blacks interviewed were sad that their parents or grandparents were not alive to be able to witness the election of one of their own to the Presidency. It is truly a remarkable, if not long overdue, accomplishment and a definite turn in the right direction for our country.

Senator John McCain offered an eloquent concession speech acknowledging the magnitude and meaning of Obama’s victory, pledging his total support and wishing God speed to our new President-Elect. At this time I ask that all Americans commit to do the same and, also, pray that our new

president will allow God to direct his steps toward that most important goal of bringing unity to our nation and peace to the hearts of its people.

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