

01/12/08

**“Surprise, Surprise”**

by  
**Tom Holbrook**

Well, we've learned two things from Tuesday night's election in New Hampshire... never put your money on the polls predicting winners of elections and never count a woman out of a race, especially if that woman is Hillary Clinton. The media (main stream) had been touting this first primary of the 2008 election as the decision time for American Democrats to choose between the first black president, Obama, or the first woman president, Clinton. The polls leading into election night predicted an overwhelming victory for Obama who was leading by over 10%... unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on whose camp you were in, the voters paid no attention to the polls and Hillary slipped by with a 2 – 3 % win over the favorite.

Those pundits who had already counted Hillary out of the national race are now back-crawling saying they didn't mean if she lost in New Hampshire she should pack it up... they meant it would just be a rougher row to hoe by losing both Iowa and New Hampshire. Ahhh... the excitement of political campaigns.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona was the winner on the Republican side with the once favored Mitt Romney coming in second and the surprising Mike Huckabee coming in a respectable third following his come from behind win in Iowa. McCain's win was not a total surprise because he won New Hampshire in 2004 against Bush, but Romney had hoped the millions he spent would surely be enough to push him over the top. It was not to be.

If you're like me at this time, I wouldn't bet a dime or a doughnut on who the final two will be at the end of the primary season. There's a different wind a blowin' throughout the land and it's even hard to determine what the urgent cry of the American people is at this time. The war in Iraq, though still dangerous, is seeing a marked decrease in violence due to the oft maligned surge tactics of Gen. Petraeus, although the Democratic Congressional leadership are constantly rehashing old headlines that 2007 was the “bloodiest year” of the war, refusing to even recognize the good that's happening over there.

The economy is still robust with just a little over 4% unemployment, our nation's lowest in decades. The stock market has hit new highs in the last few months and is predicted, in spite of its normal ups and downs, to hit even higher levels in months to come. The minimum wage was passed and the jury's still out on what kind of an effect it will have on our nation's small businesses, but overall small business is doing well.

Major crime is significantly down throughout the nation for several years running and we still haven't had a serious threat to our nation's security that hasn't been thwarted by Homeland Security. So what is the American people's hot button... what will be the major issue to push them toward one candidate over the other? If I had to fathom a guess of what's on the average American's mind I would go in the direction of illegal immigration and our still wide open borders. Almost everyone with whom I speak still fumes a little when we talk about nothing substantial being done about securing our borders on both sides – North and South- but especially our southern borders.

No one can explain why a majority of our elected Senators and Representatives are so wishy-washy over the immigration issue when their constituents are very clear as to where they stand. Seven out of ten, and probably higher, of Americans want to secure our borders and halt the mass of humankind that comes through at will into our country. Very few of these same Americans want to prevent Mexicans or any other nationality from coming in to work, they just want them to come in legally. It's not discrimination or racism, but wanting the laws of America upheld and enforced.

I'm not sure which candidate it is but I feel the candidate who shows his or her belief to be in keeping with the American people on illegal immigration, and offers a plan to put an end to it in this next presidential term, will be the eventual winner of the 2008 election. We'll see.

See you next week.

#