



Freedom Report

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...." – The Declaration of Independence

"The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases." – Thomas Jefferson

"A government that robs Peter to pay Paul, can always count on the support of Paul." – George Bernard Shaw

Frontiers of Freedom's Newsletter

www.ff.org

Issue No. 11 – November/December 2006

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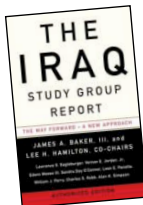
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Message from the President

Democrats Promise Honesty, Integrity and Bipartisanship – Were Their Fingers Crossed?

The question is – will the Democrats be able to deliver on their promises of honesty, integrity and bipartisanship? If past performance is any indicator, and it usually is, the answer is, unfortunately, no.

Since winning slim majorities in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, House Speaker-designate Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) have promised bipartisanship, cooperation, and a new level of honesty and integrity in Washington. Nancy Pelosi said, "Democrats pledge to make



George Landrith, President of Frontiers of Freedom

this the most honest, ethical, and open Congress in history."

This is not the first time Americans have heard such promises. Immediately after his inauguration on Jan. 20, 1993, Bill Clinton promised that his presidency would be "the most ethical administration in American history." With the benefit of hindsight and having witnessed scores of indictments, convictions and plea deals, that proclamation of new high ethical standards now seems laughable. So the question is – will current Democrats be able to deliver on their promises of honesty, integrity and bipartisanship any better than past Democrats?

If past performance is any indicator, and it usually is, the answer is

unfortunately no. Immediately following the election – when the Democratic leaders were promising ethics, cooperation and bipartisanship – their actual behavior gives little evidence that they meant anything that they said.

For example, the day after the election, President Bush placed a courtesy call to Nancy Pelosi telling her that later in the day he would be announcing that Donald Rumsfeld would be stepping down as Secretary of Defense and that Robert Gates would be nominated. The conversation was cordial and confidential and showed Bush was reaching out to the new House leadership. However, within minutes of hanging up the phone, Pelosi went to the press and demanded that the President fire Rumsfeld so that when the President



U.S. Senator Harry Ried (D-Nev.) and U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)

made the public announcement a few hours later, it would appear that he was capitulating to her demands. So much for bipartisanship and cooperation!

Additionally, Nancy Pelosi set off a firestorm of controversy by endorsing John Murtha (D-Pa.) to be her chief lieutenant despite his well-known and long history of skirting ethical standards. While Murtha lost his bid for the number two post in the House to Steny Hoyer (D-MD), that Pelosi would break with well-established tradition and endorse Murtha and then aggressively twist arms and do all in her power to sway votes to Murtha, only highlights the ethics gap.

Dating back to 1981, Murtha has battled accusations that he has used his position on the powerful Appropriations Committee to obtain federal dollars for those who give him big campaign contributions. Even worse, videotapes of Murtha talking with FBI agents posing as wealthy Arab businessmen reveal that Murtha was willing to consider possible bribery schemes in the future. Murtha was an unindicted coconspirator in the ABSCAM scandal. Melanie Sloan, the Executive Director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), a Left-leaning ethics group, said, "Pelosi's endorsement suggests to me she was interested in the culture of corruption only as a campaign issue and has no real interest in true reform."

On the Senate side, newly elected Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has



his own ethical problems. He collected \$1.1 million in a shady land deal which he did not disclose as required by law.

To complicate matters, Reid's business partner in this secret deal is a former casino lawyer whose name surfaced earlier this year in a major political bribery trial and who according to media reports has been involved in a number of organized crime and political bribery investigations since the early 1980s. Reid also violated campaign finance laws by using campaign funds to pay for personal expenses.



It takes a lot of nerve to campaign against a "culture of corruption" when you've pocketed a cool \$1.1 million from your business partner whose name is linked to the mob and who has been involved in numerous bribery investigations. It also takes a lot of nerve to promise the most honest and ethical Congress in history while endorsing and actively supporting one of the most ethically-challenged Members of Congress in modern history for a major leadership post.

Nonetheless, these are the folks who promise America a new and higher standard of ethics, openness and bipartisanship in Washington. I hope they were serious, but somehow I get the feeling that they had their fingers crossed.

Election 2006: A Good Day for Liberals? A Bad Day for Conservatives?

November 7th was a good day for Democrats. However, despite all the hoopla, it wasn't an historic day. Since World War II, the party out of the White House has lost an average of 32 seats in the House and 6 seats in the Senate during the sixth year mid-term election of a two-term president. On November 7th, it appears the Democrats picked up 29 seats in the House and 6 seats in the Senate (a few races are still too close to call.) Despite all the crowing about the tidal wave of change, Democrats underperformed when compared to historical averages.

This was no 1994 – when Republicans won 54 House seats and 10 Senate seats. Even the then sitting Speaker of the House, Tom Foley (D-Wash.) lost. There is no question that Democrats are excited to have regained nominal control of the House of Representatives and a one-seat majority of the Senate. Likewise, Republicans can't be happy to have lost slim control of Congress. But it wasn't an historic day.

This year's election may have been a bad day for Republicans, but it wasn't a bad day for conservatives, despite a few prominent conservatives losing important races. First, Democrats did not run a campaign based on ideas or ideology. They ran against President Bush and for unspecified change. Their mantra was, "It's time for change." But they never told us what change they



Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.)



Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.)



intended. Even in Iraq we don't know what their plan is. Democrats capitalized on voter discontent, but they did not create a mandate because they didn't run on any specific proposals.

This is in stark contrast to 1994 when Republicans ran for many, many months on a very clear set of legislative proposals detailed in the Contract with America. In fact, Republicans circulated copies of the actual bills that they would bring up for a vote. Additionally, Republicans won almost double the number of seats in 1994 that Democrats won in 2006. Thus, Republicans won a mandate in 1994. But without a clear agenda, you cannot win a mandate.

Second, Republicans did not lose seats in 2006 because they were too conservative. They lost because as a party (not necessarily individually) they strayed from their bedrock principles. They spent too much – way too much. They didn't do enough to stop illegal immigration. They became mired in scandal. They didn't pass a coherent energy policy to increase energy supplies and reduce costs. They didn't do enough to confirm responsible judges who follow the law. The only issue they had to run on was tax cuts from three years ago.

Third, Democrats selected a number of candidates who were able to market themselves as moderate to conservative. For example, Harold Ford (D-Tenn.) spoke openly and frequently of his religious faith and of his friendship with the President. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) ran as a pro-gun and pro-life candidate. Jim Webb (D-Va.) ran as a pro-military and pro-gun candidate who opposes gay marriage. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) also ran as a

pro-life and pro-gun candidate. Heath Shuler (D-NC), the former NFL quarterback bust, ran as a pro-gun and pro-life Christian evangelical. You get the point.

Democrats did not win by saying, "We're the party of Ted Kennedy, Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi and Barney Frank." Liberal icons were hard to find the month before the election.

Democrats won on election day. But they did not win because America had suddenly become more liberal. America was rightly disappointed in the Republicans – not because they were too conservative

– but because they were too unprincipled. Simply put, Republicans gave conservatives little to support and Democrats did a good job of hiding their liberal side and promoting their centrist and even conservative appearance.

All of this means that if Democrats hope to maintain their new found power, they must govern as moderate conservatives and not the wild-eyed liberals that they have been for the past 50 years. It also means that Republicans will not, and should not, regain favor with the voters unless as a party they return to their conservative principles. The elections in 2008 will likely hinge on whether the Republicans return to principled conservatism and whether the liberals who lead the Democratic party can hide their liberalism and maintain the appearance of moderation over the next two years.



U.S. Rep. Harold Ford (D-Tenn) ran for the U.S. Senate as a conservative.

Hollywood and Columbia Pictures delivered the Ben Affleck-Jennifer Lopez bomb "Gigli" in 2003. No sequel is expected.



But in our nation's capital, the town of a thousand-and-one second chances Congress designed something dubbed the Windfall Profit Tax (WPT) in 1980. Less than a decade later - mere days on the

bureaucratic time-clock - the tax was lifted after being judged by almost everyone to be a colossal failure.

If you're a professional politician, however, spending other people's money, such policy failures are just speed bumps on the path to another bad idea.



Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez in "Gigli"

Consider the recent Congressional hearings over the run-up in gasoline prices following the worst hurricane season in record and its flagship storm, Katrina, the worst natural disaster in American history.

Treated like criminals for making profits, oil company CEO's were paraded before a joint hearing of the Senate Energy and Commerce committees to justify their earnings as senators from both parties beat them like piñatas on national television.

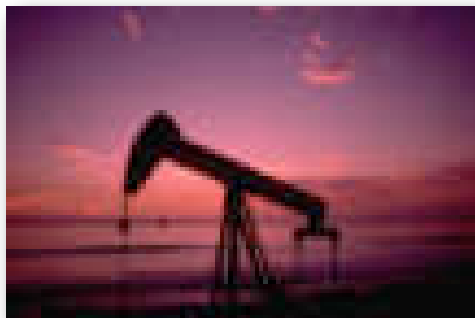
The result of these hearings is renewed interest in The Windfall Profits Rebate Act of 2005, a bill with a politically appealing title offered in September by Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND). The measure essentially calls back to life the

The Windfalls Profit Tax -- Bad Ideas Never Die in D.C.

Only in Washington, D.C. are bad ideas never truly dead.

Atlanta and Coca-Cola suffered through the "New Coke" debacle of 1985. Just three months later, the experiment was deemed a bust.





forementioned 1980's version, imposing a crushing 50 percent tax on "windfall profits." But like New Coke and the Ben and Jennifer movie debacle, we already know how this disaster story ends.

According to a study by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, the original windfall profit tax a quarter of a century ago, reduced domestic oil production by somewhere between three and six-percent from 1980-1988.

As a result, it increased foreign oil imports from between eight and sixteen-percent - exactly the opposite of its stated purpose. To top it off, by the end of its run, the WPT had generated virtually no revenue. It was repealed and left for dead in 1988.

One would hope that today's senators are bright enough to know that oil and gasoline are commodities just like soybeans, wheat, oranges, pork bellies and timber, whose prices fluctuate based on external factors like weather and supply and demand.

There are years when oil, pigs and trees are better investments than others. Profits rise and profits fall. It is the good years that fund the lean ones and cyclical industries such as oil and gas take profits from the good or not so good years and reinvest them for a better future.

This is precisely what oil companies have done by reinvesting profits into infrastructure and rewarding stockholders. Levying almost criminal taxes of 50-percent will hurt average investors much more than the companies themselves. And these investors are not just the Armani-clad high rollers of Wall

Street. They are teachers with mutual funds, blue-collar factory workers with kids in college and retired middle-class workers making do on pensions.

Congress could earn its wings this year by turning down the anti-corporate rhetoric and letting the market work without government intrusion. Gasoline prices are dropping rapidly - at record rates in some states - and refineries and pipelines damaged by the year's brutal hurricanes rapidly coming back to full-strength.

If Washington is determined to act on gas prices as a show of strength to voters, they might repeal the gas tax and offer incentives to states and local

governments to abate theirs as well.

Tax collectors currently grab over 30-percent of the proceeds from a single gallon of gas. That's more than the oil companies make in profits and more than the expenses of marketing, distribution and refining combined.

Everyone loves nostalgia and in pop culture, "going retro" has never been more popular. But reviving the windfall

profits would be a dismal failure. It's better to leave some mistakes buried in the '80's.

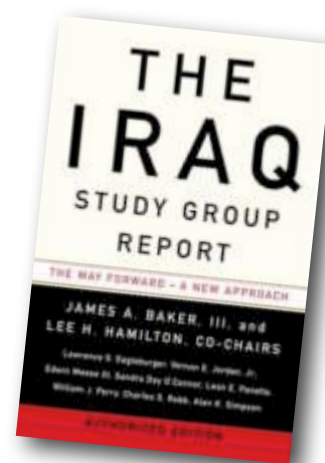
Just ask Coca-Cola.



Iraq Study Group Fails to Find a Roadmap to Victory

From the opening sentences of the recent report released by the Iraq Study Group it was clear that nothing in that document would be of much use regarding U.S.-Middle East policy. Regarding the war to stabilize Iraq, the group said, "Our political leaders must build a bipartisan approach to bring a responsible conclusion to what is now a lengthy and costly war."

First, the way to bring about a conclusion to the war is for the Iraqi government and the U.S. and their allies to defeat those who are preventing stability from taking root in that suffering nation. Second, a bipartisan approach will not accomplish that goal. America will not defeat its enemies by bringing Democrats and Republicans together so they may arrive at a lowest common denominator policy that is least objectionable to everyone. That is not a strategy for defeating the terrorists; it is a strategy for a stealthy surrender and will hand the promoters



of violence a victory. Under such conditions we may be certain that more outbursts will erupt elsewhere in due time. Compromise can be a good approach, but not when one side is

obviously right and the other wrong.

The report rightly declares, "...all key issues in the Middle East - the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iraq, Iran, the need for political and economic reforms, and extremism and terrorism - are inextricably linked." Yet, after comprehending the problem the authors of the report promote the same agenda for addressing these challenges that have failed repeatedly in the past, namely, a new diplomatic offensive. There is no diplomatic solution to Arab-Israeli violence. It will persist at various levels until one side wins and one side loses. That has been the horrible way of war since the beginning of man and it is a dreadful fact that will not change.

Not only does the report advocate an attempt to reinvigorate a failed strategy, it recommends bringing to the table Syria and Iran, two nations that have historically sponsored terrorism. At a December 7 briefing at the State Department, spokesman Sean McCormack said, "Clearly, there are states like Syria who are hosting at least

one part of Hamas, and Syria is not a country at this point in time that has demonstrated any interest in trying to bring about a more stable, peaceful Middle East, whether that's in Lebanon, in the Palestinian territories or Iraq."



meaningless effort at best and, at worse, would deepen the crisis. The last thing America's enemies want is to help the U.S. establish a stable Iraq. They see America torn over Iraq and with respect to the war on terrorism in general and are happy to let the nation simmer in its frustration and division.

The Department has had Syria on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism since the list's inception in 1979 and warns that in Syria, "Political opposition to the President is not tolerated."

Syria would be of no help in defeating or discrediting the groups that feed the level of violence in Iraq.

Neither would Iran be of any assistance. The State Department lists a variety of concerns regarding Tehran's record, including "human rights violations, worsening constraints on press freedom and civil liberties, and, internationally, Iran remains a major state sponsor of terrorism."

The Heritage Foundation reports, "Iran created Hezbollah in 1982 as a vehicle for exporting its revolution, mobilizing Lebanese Shiites, and developing a terrorist surrogate for attacks on Israel and the United States.

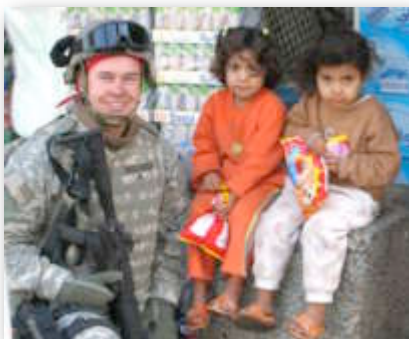
Hezbollah has a long history of violence against Israel and the U.S. It fought Israeli forces that intervened in Lebanon in 1982 to attack Palestinian terrorists operating from Lebanese territory; later it also attacked the Western multinational peacekeeping force dispatched to Lebanon in the aftermath of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict there. Hezbollah terrorists bombed the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 and took 15 American hostages in Lebanon later in the 1980s."

Syria and Iran are not partners in peace. To turn to them for help in defeating global terrorism would be a

Reaching out to one's enemies for assistance is not only naïve, it is a display of weakness.

There are some suggestions in the report that promote common sense. Recommendation 65 states international partners must play a more active role in reconstruction efforts and elsewhere the report urges the United States to "encourage investment in Iraq's oil sector by the international community and by international energy agencies." These are fine proposals but before entrepreneurship can truly flourish the landscape must be relatively calm with an understanding that it will remain so into the future.

The report, like much of the public dialogue about the war, neglects the most fundamental issue that is at stake: How does one respond to evil? The Iraq Study Group suggests diplomats should ignore evil, congregate around a polished table and engage in a civilized dialogue until harmony is attained. That is a fantasy.



To mankind's detriment, in the

modern world evil has become an antiquated concept. President Bush has used the word in reference to terrorist organizations and he has been ridiculed. By embracing the fiction that good and evil are the stuff of fairy tales we have adopted a sense of moral neutrality and intellectual anesthesia. In his book, "Unspeakable," Os Guinness wrote it has become stylish to "pronounce all judgments of evil to be judgmental and evil themselves. Some have even acted as

if it were worse to judge evil than to do evil."

There is no doubt that the war in Iraq has not gone well. The current strategy is unsatisfactory. Numerous proposals are on the table, including reorganizing portions of the Iraqi government and military, redeploying U.S. forces in Iraq, sending more U.S. troops and embedding more U.S. forces with Iraqi troops. Whatever the decision, there should be no doubt that sitting at the table with and seeking help from those who oppose U.S. interests is not the answer. When good begins treating evil as an equal partner and attempting to meet some of its interests, as is part of the negotiating process, then good has lost its moral core. That is what the Iraq Study Group is asking the United States to do, and it should be unacceptable to anyone who values justice and treasures what is right. America and its allies should be searching for ways to defeat the enemy; not scramble for a way to leave the field gracefully.

Frontiers of Freedom Media Report

In September and October, Frontiers' senior staff made more than 189 appearances on news and talk format programs and were seen or heard in all 50 states discussing tax reform, national security, energy prices and energy policy, global warming, missile defense,



protection of fundamental constitutional rights, internet regulation, the global war on terror, environmental regulations, lawsuit abuse reform, and the ACLU's anti-American and anti-constitutional agenda.

The Bogus Constitutional Case Against Christmas

America Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the left have found a very interesting list of dangerous and threatening enemies to our constitutional representative democracy. If you're a rational human being, you might think the greatest risks to America are murderous terrorists like Osama bin Laden or hostile nations like North Korea or Iran. But if you're with the ACLU or a committed leftist, your list of risks to America is very different – it includes: the Boy Scouts, the Pledge of Allegiance, and Christmas. To the ACLU and to the left, Christmas trees, carols and nativity scenes are dangerous instrumentalities that threaten America's foundation.

In Colorado, a town's holiday parade was open to all – except Christians who were explicitly prohibited from entering a parade float depicting a Christmas theme. A school in Maryland used a pair of scissors to cut the word "God" out of a child's poetry assignment before it could be displayed on the bulletin board. Many schools across America now ban Christmas carols. It is not uncommon for a public school holiday choral program to include Hanukah songs and Kwanzaa songs, but curiously omit Christmas songs – despite the fact that more than 85% of the population is Christian.

When specifically asked about Hanukah songs, the ACLU in a grand gesture of evenhandedness says that Hanukah songs must also go. But since when did it become the job of government to censor out any mention of Christmas or Hanukah from public life? Why do people who engage in such censorship and religious bigotry defend their outrageous behavior



by reciting the First Amendment? Isn't the whole point of the First Amendment to protect free speech and religious freedom?

Among other things, the First Amendment forbids government from (i) establishing a religion, (ii) prohibiting the free exercise of religion, and (iii) abridging the freedom of speech or press. For the record, the phrase "separation of church and state" does not appear anywhere in the Constitution. Simply stated, there is no constitutional requirement that government censure, separate or weed-out from public life anything that has religious meaning. There is no right to not hear or see ideas that you don't believe in.

Christians do not have a constitutional right to never see a menorah or hear a traditional Jewish song. Likewise, Jews do not have a constitutional right to not see a nativity scene or hear a Christmas carol. Furthermore, atheists do not have a constitutional right to never see menorahs and nativity scenes. What sort of soft-headed morons have we become if we need government to protect us from mere exposure to the ideas and beliefs of others? What a pitiful lot we must be if the mere sight of a nativity scene offends us or the mere sound of a carol insults us? The Constitution protects us from the government coercively forcing us to believe or not believe. But it doesn't protect us from seeing or hearing things that we don't believe.

Despite these facts, the ACLU and the left misrepresent the Constitution and abuse its protections to violate the free speech rights and the religious freedom guaranteed in the Constitution.

While America is overwhelmingly Christian, it is a nation of great diversity. More than any other nation in history, people of virtually every faith and culture call America home and enjoy constitutional protection to believe and worship (or to not believe and not worship) as they choose. America is the most tolerant of any nation in history. Not only does America's majority *tolerate* other beliefs and cultures, it

welcomes and celebrates them.

Unfortunately, that remarkable diversity and tolerance are in jeopardy – not by an oppressive majority, but by a vocal, intolerant and relentless minority represented by the ACLU and the left.

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukah! Tough luck, ACLU! Let freedom ring!

FOF's Ten Tenets

- The most basic moral obligation of the federal government is to defend America, which requires military, economic, and moral preparation and strength.
- Property rights and economic freedom are the fertile soil in which all other rights grow and thrive. The environment is best protected and preserved where free markets thrive, capitalism is robust, and property rights are respected.
- The Constitution's enumerated and limited powers, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and guarantee of basic rights are fundamental to America's freedom.
- "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" and each of the rights guaranteed in the Constitution are necessary to the foundation of freedom – including the right to bear arms and to not be deprived of property without just compensation.
- The courts have a constitutional duty to faithfully and strictly interpret the law and the Constitution and may not invent or create new law.
- Justice is the equal treatment of all *individuals* regardless of ethnicity or religion. Fabricating group rights undermines individual freedom and civil rights.
- Taxes may be legitimately imposed *only* to the extent necessary to pay for the essential and constitutionally permitted activities of government. To tax more than this is a form of tyranny and extortion.
- Government mandates and regulations too often exceed constitutional authority, waste resources, erode freedom, diminish property rights, and produce harmful unintended consequences.
- To remove sound science from public policy is legislative and regulatory malpractice. To employ junk science in public policy is unethical and irresponsible.
- Basic standards of morality and civic virtue are essential to maintaining America's economic strength, military might, and freedom. Parents and families, not government, are responsible to rear and educate their children.

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