

HOPE AND CHANGE? WELL, YES, BUT THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT THIS TIME

By: Anthony J. Sacco, Sr.

CHEYENNE – With less than five weeks remaining before the mid-term elections, the Democrat Party appears desperate. That desperation is not without cause. Its standard bearer, President Barack Hussein Obama, has performed so poorly during his first term in office that he has become an embarrassment to them; so much so that many of them do not want him to campaign with them.

Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D, President of The Heritage Foundation put it this way in a recent letter to members, "President Obama and his liberal friends in Congress have badly misread the mood of the American people. They do not have a mandate to dismantle capitalism and turn America into a cradle-to-grave welfare state. They do not have a mandate to bury our health care system under mountains of bureaucracy – or to cripple our economy in the name of global warming."

Latest polls show Obama and the Dems in free fall. Gallup, which tracks the president's job approval ratings on a daily basis, shows as of Tuesday, September 28, 2010, that only 45% of Americans approve of the job Barack Obama is doing as president, while 49% disapprove. Gallup's results are based on telephone interviews with approximately 1,500 national adults; the poll's margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

The political landscape looks bleak for the Democrats. Gallup's polls signal that fifty-two percent of those asked believe the GOP will win control of the House of Representatives in the fall, while only thirty-two percent think Democrats will win. Further, the public is more inclined to say the country will be better off (36%) than worse off (24%) if Republicans win, although 32% say it will not make a difference.

Tracking polls are not the only indicator of dissatisfaction out there. Millions of Americans are expressing their frustration with the state of their government with a different kind of poll – the voting poll. In primary after primary this year, conservative candidates have challenged and bested their liberal or "moderate" incumbent competition. Frustrated by the direction in which our present government is moving this country, voters are expressing themselves with the Tea Party Patriots, a grassroots movement of common sense conservatives, the values of which are more closely akin to those of the Republican Party than those of the Democrat Party.

Liberals are outraged. "The nerve of these people, using the Democratic process to voice their concerns," has been one of their objections. Another has been the leftist cry that the Tea Parties are made up of a bunch of radical right wing extremists. That's stretching the truth. In reality the Tea Party Patriots are made up of Americans with enough common sense to understand that we're headed in the wrong direction. At Tea Party protests and town hall meetings across America, ordinary citizens have been making themselves heard on the

issues. At first, the "Establishment" ignored them. Then, liberal Democrats and moderate Republicans, aided by the news media, ridiculed them and attempted to smear them. However, their efforts have failed. The Tea Partiers are making history.

What is it that motivates the Tea Party Patriots? The group's core values appear to be these: fiscal responsibility, constitutionally limited government, and free markets. Each is defined in its Mission Statement:

"Fiscal Responsibility: Fiscal Responsibility by government honors and respects the freedom of the individual to spend the money that is the fruit of their own labor. A constitutionally limited government, designed to protect the blessings of liberty, must be fiscally responsible or it must subject its citizenry to high levels of taxation that unjustly restrict the liberty our Constitution was designed to protect. Such runaway deficit spending as we now see in Washington D.C. compels us to take action as the increasing national debt is a grave threat to our national sovereignty and the personal and economic liberty of future generations.

"Constitutionally Limited Government: We, the members of The Tea Party Patriots, are inspired by our founding documents and regard the Constitution of the United States to be the supreme law of the land. We believe that it is possible to know the original intent of the government our founders set forth, and stand in support of that intent. Like the founders, we support states' rights for those powers not expressly stated in the Constitution. As the government is of the people, by the people and for the people, in all other matters we support the personal liberty of the individual, within the rule of law.

"Free Markets: A free market is the economic consequence of personal liberty. The founders believed that personal and economic freedom were indivisible, as do we. Our current government's interference distorts the free market and inhibits the pursuit of individual and economic liberty. Therefore, we support a return to the free market principles on which this nation was founded and oppose government intervention into the operations of private business."

Liberals within the Democrat Party are panicking. For them, it has become an "us or them" mentality. In fact, liberals are so scared they've come up with and are attempting a new strategy: they're now starting to call themselves "progressives." They have short memories. They don't remember that they did the same thing in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, trying to disguise what they really were - socialists and communists. It didn't work for them back then. It won't work for them now.

There is also some indication that political infighting is occurring within the Party. Vice-President Joe Biden's recent "Stop Whining" speech is an example. Here's the way CBS News Online described it on Tuesday, September 28, 2010:

"The White House's latest attempts to mobilize liberals ahead of the midterm elections have once again generated a backlash from the left. "Progressive bloggers and activists were up in arms after Vice President

Joe Biden said at a Democratic fundraiser yesterday that the party's base should 'stop whining.' His remarks were echoed by President Obama in a newly-released Rolling Stone interview in which he says his supporters need to 'buck up.'

"The liberal community is pointing to the remarks as the latest examples of the Obama administration's disinterest in listening to its core backers -- and they think it's an unwise move so close to the midterm elections.

"John Aravosis of Americablog.com charged that belittling the Democratic base is 'now clearly a White House strategy.'

"I can't for the life of me understand what the White House thinks it gains by continually poking the base - the people who actually vote in mid-term elections - only five weeks before the election," Aravosis wrote. "The President, rather famously, routinely refuses to stand up to conservative Democrats and Republicans, and it's likely the primary reason we're about to lose the House."

"Aravosis contends that Mr. Obama should have made the economic stimulus package bigger but instead chose to compromise with moderates.

"The entire country, all of us with friends and family members currently out of a job, are paying dearly for this mistake," he wrote. "So for him and his to tell us and ours to stop whining is pretty pathetic."

"Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, suggested the vice president should be thanking, not chiding, groups like his, for their fundraising and get-out-the-vote efforts. PCCC recently raised \$100,000 for progressive New Hampshire House candidate Ann McLane Kuster and is organizing hundreds of thousands of phone calls to voters ahead of Election Day.

"The 'professional left' is busting our butt to mobilize progressive voters in 2010, picking up the ball that this White House dropped when they refused to fight for the overwhelmingly popular public option, refused to break up the big banks, and demobilized Obama voters who expected this president to at least fight for big change," Green said.

"Salon's Glenn Greenwald, a critic of the Obama administration's record on civil liberties, took to Twitter to point to evidence that Obama has continued the anti-terror policies of the Bush administration. He then asked, 'Do they really think 'stop whining' is an effective message? Apparently.'

"Marcy Wheeler, another critic of the president's national security policies, said on Twitter, 'As much as I focus on torture and assassination, I'd *buck up* a lot faster if the Admin focused on helping people save their homes.'

"Mr. Obama's and Biden's recent remarks come on the heels of a confrontation between the White House and liberal bloggers, who accused the administration of 'hippie punching.' In other words, they accused the White House of relying on liberal voters to mobilize on Election Day while

ignoring liberal goals like ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan or ending the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy.

"Democratic National Committee Chairman Tim Kaine said on the CBS 'Early Show' today that Democrats will have to mobilize the base but also appeal to right-tilting independents this November."

This is the Democrat base talking. Since its political base of radical liberals, ultra-liberals, progressives, or whatever they are now calling themselves is so unhappy with its leaders, what can we expect from Democrats over the next five weeks? Here's what Rush Limbaugh said in a recent *Limbaugh Letter*:

"There's a new, powerful wave of conservatism building – and liberals along with their media accomplices have no recourse but to demonize it . . . Desperate Democrats will play the race card, the Hispanic card, the Nazi card, any card they think will save them from the momentous thumping they face in November . . . one of the most crushing mid-term election defeats in history . . . any attempt by Barack Obama to position himself as a 'centrist' before the election will fail utterly. It's far too late. Liberals will be stunned."

Well, okay. Americans now appear to understand at least some of the differences between Democrats and Republicans. *That* has been one very good thing that has come out of the 2008 election; never again should anyone be heard to say, "There ain't a dime's worth of difference between the two Parties." Those differences have been made clear by vote after vote of the Republican minority in both the House and Senate during the past two years, as it sought to stop the leftward drift of the Democrat Congress.

If the voters *do* hand over at least some governmental power to Republicans, how that political party handles its responsibility will be crucial to its future, and to the future of the two-party system in the United States. Republicans made such a mess of things when they had control of Congress and the White House, that if they do not demonstrate decisively that they have learned their lesson and are now ready to actually do the will of the people, look for the emergence of a third party – probably named the Tea Party Patriots – in the near future.

Anthony Joseph Sacco, Sr., a writer, licensed private investigator, author of two novels, The China Connection, and Little Sister Lost, and a biography, Echoes in the Wind, holds degrees from Loyola University Maryland and the University of Maryland Law School. His articles have appeared in the Washington Times, Baltimore Sun, Voices for the Unborn, the Catholic Review, WREN Magazine and the Wyoming Catholic Register. E-mail him at anthonyjsacco@hotmail.com, and visit his website at www.saccoservices.com.