

A PROBLEM WITH INTEGRITY

Recently, my favorite Pastor presented a rousing sermon whose essence suggested: 'We don't have an economic/financial problem, we have an integrity problem'. I agree with this and though he did not name anyone responsible the inferences seemed to target our Government to include all branches: courts, Congress and the leadership.

So much of leadership is based on integrity and certainly competence, intelligence, and example: But above all 'be true to thyself' and integrity is fundamental to the leader's success or failure, and reputation. To assess this I have turned to three articles, the thrust of each articulates key problems facing our President: 'The New Deal' (Michael Hiltzik); 'Palestinians/U.N.' -an article by Alan Dershowitz; and Gerald Seib's article on the Perry/Reagan similarities –all cited in the Wall Street Journal.

Hiltzik argues that 'FDR, his Brain Trust imparted a similar impression as suggested by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Team of Rivals) that an able commander can reconcile a disparate group of critics/advisers to change the character of America, rescuing it from crisis along the way'. Both Roosevelt and Lincoln rose to the challenge. Despite all of the programs developed, money spent, and charisma of Roosevelt- taking over when unemployment was 25%, the economy did not get back to its 1929 level in FDR's first two terms and only got back after WWII began. Hiltzik's story inferred great success, rather than revealing how anti-business policies caused companies to hunker down and not hire. Too, neglecting the Wagner Act, which gave unprecedented clout to labor, sit-down strikes, closed shop – all driving up costs and effecting hiring. Sounds a little familiar.

Dershowitz revisits the inauguration of the state of Israel and Palestine via the UN partition plan when the British mandate ended, in 1948. Israel accepted and the Palestinians refused initiating the collective attack against Israel, and the forerunner of many wars since, attempts at reconciliation, and now the attempt to ignore Israel and obtain UN recognition for the Palestine state. Irony is Palestine had a state in 1948.

Despite the belief that a conservative cannot be elected President as Seib's recall of Gerald Ford's admonition, Reagan soundly defeated Carter disproving all of this. There are similarities of the Perry run whose philosophy is idealistic, conservative and religious. And a product of the Tea Party, blasphemy to Obama.

It is an understatement to say that this President has been tested, his character and integrity held up for evaluation, and to be fair, the jury is still out even with chinks seen in his armor...and the problems persist: A government in horrendous debt; a never-ending war; high unemployment; and the seeming incapability to reconcile key issues with a truculent Congress. It did not have to be this way.

Unlike Lincoln and Roosevelt who calmed the country, in part, by bringing critics and party opposites into their administration, this President appears to be set in an ideological bent. He had the chance to bring into his inner-circle, those in disagreement or critical to seek governance for all the peoples. McCain per se. Instead rumor, innuendo and some evidence on plans: monetary stimulus, bailouts, government spending, entitlement demands collectively could cause systemic failure, economic and social crisis and lead to an all encompassing and controlling government over all aspects, suggesting a Socialist mantra of equality.

Classmates in both Occidental and Columbia believed without equivocation, Obama was a Muslim, Socialist, and on some sort of mission. If this is true then his integrity and character must be challenged

A melodrama continues, man, his motives, mantra, and yes his competence to lead in the mix along with a question of his integrity. Not surprisingly but an inference to the moment....Solyndra Sonar so green with envy, with government largesse, support facing bankruptcy now along with possible fraud.

One's own character is arbiter of his fortune!