

TO SEEK A COMMANDER IN CHIEF II

Super Bowl and Super Tuesday, entertaining but to some, superfluous, others just plain, super! To those who worry about our country and its future it is daunting, and perhaps a rendezvous with destiny.

Those who voted for John Kerry ran the gamut of true liberals, born in the aura of Ted Kennedy and the Kennedy clan in general, the liberal media, college teachers and those who hated George Bush for a variety of reasons. Kerry was seen as polished, presidential, yet gave off an aura as one who appeared quasi-arrogant, a stuffy Easterner, and a chameleon like a feather in the wind-darting from one position to another seemingly reflecting the mood and hopes of each audience. It called to mind Tom Dewey whose persona seemed to mock the haberdasher from Missouri, Harry Truman ,while giving acceptance speeches in deep resonant tones countering the high pitch twang of the President. Who can forget the Chicago Tribune headline citing a Dewey victory which Truman gleefully showed? Like Dewey, Kerry seemed the Knight errant and Bush the interloper with the questionable syntax. Even though the parties were opposite in the analogy, the results were the same as both Truman and Bush ran tough races and won.

Shades of Camelot as the Kennedy's and others drool about Obama in a tight duel with Hillary. War hero McCain leads the battle with a comfortable lead over evangelist Huckabee from Hope, sans the silver-tongued Mormon.

Yet one wonders whether any of these have the

stomach, the will, the experience and a plan to resolve the war, placate the home and international fronts. Listening to all of them, their promises and platitudes, generalities, one has to be concerned. A recall of one of my mini-analyses of the totality.

"At the moment we are in an 'undeclared war', our borders are porous, loyalty of our Muslim and many 'illegal' citizens are suspect, the insurrection in Iraq seems endless, the 'roadmap' to peace between the Jew and Palestinian seems to have detoured, the threat of rogue-acting powers seeking nuclear weapons is real, our voluntary military is stretched thin and unable to confront any realistic new threat, and our lame duck President is badgered over the war, the economy, the impasse between him and the Congress and his impervious relations with the World."

How can a senior citizen, an old soldier really grasp the magnitude of all this and better yet how can this potential Commander-in-Chief be prepared and ready....unless he or she recognizes the imperatives.

The war is the crucible! As is his wont, Victor Hanson reminds, "we know precisely the crisis and we know the enemy. The mixture of autocracy, religious intolerance, and the feelings of inferiority brought on by globalization has created a lethal brew in all the unfree parts of the Islamic world. And we must prevail, not abdicate."

Currently, the Petraeus Counter-insurgency plan is working and most of Baghdad, environs and other insurgent enclaves where American forces, coalition units and Iraqis work together, al-

Qaeda has been dislodged, beaten and put on the run. A Clear, Hold, Remain and Build concept prevails. Troop withdrawals down to pre-surge levels are on-going.

The new Commander in Chief must assess the situation both current and future to include a new strategy that entertains specifics: to define the fight as one against Islamo-fascists (not terrorists), to meet with leaders of Islam countries and so specify which would include an approval from Congress and perhaps a Declaration of War against those countries who continue to harbor, finance, train these militants

To abrogate the necessary mission to win this war is the height of folly!