

## **CONFLICT OR DEPENDENCY: a Paradox?**

*Mr. President, I would think this may be the time for a New Year's resolution, something with real teeth and an engine to get this economy moving again, a strategy to define what goals you ascertain to accommodate the Arab Spring, perhaps moving towards more storm clouds of the Jihad, the nuclear moment of Iran, and the insurrection in Syria, in brutal continuance of bloodshed. And in the title -something like Catch 22- revealing the political and ideological chess game you continue to play against the Republican opposition and its response.*

*I'm a retired military officer, a private citizen, deep in the twilight of life yet concerned of how our country has changed, and decidedly so since you came into office. I had hopes for you then but little now. There are many who still bathe in your historical moment, and there are others who may be ambivalent and many who find you an ideologue, the pied piper who would bring us equality, slow up the haves and raise up the have-nots but the scenario is troubling: a burst bubble of the housing market, financial and economic malaise, high unemployment, a federal budget in some kind of vacuum, world-wide need for economic accommodation and salvation and a cry for leadership by you in this and the augur of Islamic Jihad a threat, looming still, exacerbated by the abrupt leaving of Iraq with little or no consequential force level, and Afghanistan next –a never-ending war, left once after Soviets neutralized, chased out, and time is running out there. A time to lead, run, exploit and in an articulate voice, “war is not the answer, let us bring our troops home and get our economic ship sailing again”. Who can argue with this premise? Was it all in vain?*

*Oblivious to economic and financial problems I see Carter smiling and you speaking with little to compensate for moribund economies. At the moment some say we face melt-down, a real depression, little individual efforts, a collective mindset prevails. History reminds that economic malaise defeats Presidents, like Carter and possibly you. Dancing GOP puppets seem to argue against each other than to define your failures.*

*More of you is a tonic for catastrophe beset with your leadership stumbles, and inability to bring people together, and an ideology that reeks of socialistic tenets clouded by enormous debt, the growing money tree, and inertia. You will continue to stir the conflict both domestic and international and exploit the dependency of people to score political*

*points, tap the reservoir of amnesty for illegals, union energizing, and those whose message personifies the near anarchy of the street rabble with no solutions. You have informed friend and foe of the real America, demagoguery, economic exploitation and misdeeds toward the underclass, and apologized. Perhaps, most damaging is failure to define the enemy: militant Islamic ideology, religion and their desire for a world caliphate. Can you change, accommodate, and lead by the necessity to bring in a fair and balance mandate? Possibly, but probably not, the ideologue in you is strong and uncompromising. Such as it is. Whither, thou goest, Barack Obama?*

*The tentacles of Catch 22 seem entangling -a paradox of law, regulation or practice, making one a victim no matter the consequences. You are burdened in debate with moral equivalence as to the Islamic culture, benign or militant, and some see you as the proverbial chess player, a reactor rather than an idealist. While you rationalize an attitude towards Israel, you seem unable to move against Iran in Khomeini-like face and expecting the Moslem Messiah, the Mahdi. Recompense?*