

DELAWARE OR WATERLOO

History is replete with examples of success and failure: 'hope when all seemed lost, Washington's trip on the Delaware; Wellington's victory over Napoleon at Waterloo', victory and defeat can be relative as one's success is another's failure and visa versa. President Roosevelt's and Obama's inaugurals posited hope and change from their predecessors. Their initial success in words: "Only thing we have to fear is fear itself; you are greater than birth or wealth, a time to reaffirm our spirit." Words are inspirational when often deeds do not agree.

One could argue that the coming midterm will be an exercise in relativity as what constitutes success or failure on the Obama Presidency from all sides of the political spectrum- essentially a referendum. We know about stimulus, bailouts of corporations, energy pro- grams suggesting savings and national health which augurs coverage for all, suspect costs, and questions as to better or worse health care. Suggestions of socialism a parrot of the New Deal smacks of potential redistribution of wealth, attempts at improving the have-nots by taxing the haves more heavily. An aura of deficit spending in the Keynes pattern and blaming capitalism as the ogre. Extraordinary long-term debt and high inflation hovers which will continue the high unemployment and inability to emphasize job programs and creation. Again one's economic and financial philosophy seems caught in a Catch-22, the work of the disparate ideas of the Federal Reserve, the Obama economic 'brain trust' and other seers.

I see a leader who holds an 'uncertain trumpet' as to the definition of friend and foe. A man for all sea- sons who, like John Kerry, offers hope and change and responds to each audience with what they like to hear. It is simple to me. Militant, ever-encroaching Islam in the pattern of al-Qaeda and Taliban in fighting garb as well as the Stealth Jihad of Islam seeking infiltration and influence in our schools, businesses and corporations, positing Sharia for all with no recompense.

Enough to rattle the china...well, not yet! How about: Public Sector Unions, America's epicurean liberalism, and a need for limited Government.

Public Sector Unions –no this is not John L. Lewis reincarnated for the coal miners, rather a way of life that threatens the life-blood of states like New Jersey, California and others. Governor Chris Christie moved swiftly to take on New Jersey's some 400,000 public employees. By Executive order, he stopped state-workers' unions from making political contributions; against teachers he is

battling them over continual pay raises and free lifetime health care. He got their attention and it also resulted in a firestorm. Roosevelt's Wagner Act (bonded labor to Democrats to organize and bargain collectively) while later Taft-Hartley reined in Labor power. In California, union benefits and pay are higher than private sectors for comparable personnel- compounding the present fiscal crisis there.

Greek Philosopher Epicurus taught that individual happiness was the aim of living and that pleasure was the sum of happiness. Liberty, in short, is a matter of personal choice. In Planned Parenthood versus Case Justice O'Connor, Kennedy and Souter argued that "at the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence."

In Jeffrey Anderson's treatise on 'A Limited Government Amendment' (National Affairs Magazine) he argued that "in the eyes of America's Founders, unlimited government was a recipe for tyranny."

Christie argues decisively "at some point there has to be parity between what is happening in the real world and the public-sector world." Schwarzenegger sought referenda to the people, thwarted by union electoral clout.

A rediscovery of the original American creed- the creed of yeoman citizen, the creed for self-determination. A creed of liberty, virtue, moralism by individuals, not mandated by the government.

Beware if public debt, excessive taxation and the Angst that follows: It cries out for Limited government.