

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

A 'devil's advocate' expresses an opinion to provoke debate, and symbolically is a 'foe of God and temple of man'. It is said that every military commander, organizational leader, one who, in charge, is responsible for what his unit, organization does or does not do for the good, the bad and even the ugly. Even a President needs someone to provoke debate on questionable policies, plans and ideology.

So what has this to do with the price of cotton? Not much if you believe our President is fool-proof and in the abstract nearly walks on water. Or maybe you believe he is lost in the vacuum of ideas, an ideologue who suffers criticism, unable to deviate from his path of savior and the man on horseback whose bad luck was to inherit the failed policies of his predecessor. Let us develop the picture.

"Mr. President, in all fairness, some of us think, you now have the responsibility for a goodly portion of the financial structure, economy still struggling with a suggestion of long range debt, inflation and influence on the world economy which bodes problems of their own. Too, there is an attitude that we, like the Bush Presidency have been unable to define the enemy out there on the periphery, essentially the mideast with a continuing war in Afghanistan and Iraq. His was to develop a strategy called War against Terror, without selecting an ideology, a nation or a religion, despite the evidence that much was the result of militant Islam. Ours has decried that for something called, 'man-made disasters' and a policy that smacks of all this as a crime of individuals not of ideology. Islam is never mentioned. Fear of tax raises, continuing unemployment, eroding state bankruptcies, the oil-spill dilemma, and the suggestion that there is inertia in leadership at a critical time".

"That's a mouthful, Mr. Advisor, and I think you overstate the case. Let me address each: We did inherit an on-going recession, nearly a depression, and I have drawn from Roosevelt, Keynes and others, and believe

things are beginning to turn-around. There is evidence the stimulus helped, there is hope for a new health program for all to be covered, and fraud and waste to be eliminated, energy and education bettered by our plans. Moreover, our war strategy is aimed at persistence in Afghanistan, draw-down there and Iraq soon. We share in some of the blame for Islamic upheaval, but they are not our enemies. We have been dealing with them and the Israel-Palestine problems. Yes, my leadership has been tested, and I am focusing on the environmental oil-spill dilemma, holding BP accountable. I am not a socialist, but draw from many ideologies and ideas.”

We who have been military commanders have been privy to good advice and bad, but the ultimate decision is ours without blame or equivocation. When I addressed higher authority and complained of some decisions, I had the option to support them, or step down, transfer or resign my commission. Sometimes it was a close call. This President’s main abilities are his eloquence, his seeming concern, intelligence but he is a total failure as leader.....and, perhaps an ideologue?

David Horowitz, a lifelong civil rights activist, the author of ‘Radical Son’(his autobiography) where he informs he grew up in a Communist family(mother and father were card carrying communists) and was one of the founders of the New Left movement of the Sixties. A brutal murder of a friend by alleged Black Panthers of that era changed his life forever. He knows the influence of Saul Alinsky, a self-described ‘community organizer’, and traces his most famous pupil, Obama, in a small book called: ‘Rules for Revolution’ One of his most famous Alinsky quotes infers, “the evil that radicals may do is already justified by the fact that they do it for the salvation of mankind”.

Those that subscribe remind that Marx talked of a ‘kingdom of heaven’, Alinsky ‘the open society’ and the current left, ‘social justice’

What radicals create, according to Horowitz, is not salvation, but chaos, and Presidential disciples of Alinsky, what will they create?