

THE ENIGMATIC PRESIDENT

“A vain President or a weak one” was the title of an article by Fred Barnes in the Weekly Standard recently and Barnes compared Obama with Carter whose vacillation and rationalization over dealing with the Soviets(over invasion of Afghanistan)and Iran(over the taking of American hostages)was seen as weak and indecisive leading to his defeat by Reagan. Currently, there appears similar attitudes over the current Afghanistan dilemma of more troops, wait till the suspect Presidential election is resolved, or lets just come home. Too, an article in the same magazine by Charles Krauthammer “Decline is a Choice” argues ‘Obama indicted his own country for arrogance, for dismissiveness(toward Europe), for maltreatment of natives, for torture, for Hiroshima, for Guantanamo, and for unilateralism.’ Is this fair and balanced, probably not!

The liberal enclave around Obama would probably reply, “These conservatives(republicans)are famous for their blasphemous statements in the aura of their mentor, Rush Limbaugh.” Not too fair and balanced here either. However, a reasonable person could perceive as I do this President is verbose, articulate, and spews out ideas like money, still campaigning rather than engaging in objective debate with the opposition. Like Jefferson, he may be only comfortable with his own ideas, ‘spokesman of a revolution of ideas that would make the world over again.’ But Jefferson was known to be a rationalizer, and did equivocate on many things effecting the revolution, hiding from the British and one who believed in God with reservations; he did not accept the resurrection, and return of Jesus.

Having given our new President the benefit of his campaign, to draw memories of Lincoln and Kennedy and his ability to speak well and seemingly use a innate-ness in analysis and debate. I even believed he would call on McCain as an aisle crosser and a sense of balance. He was my President too. Before I thought Colin Powell was Presidential but his uneven, question-

able performance as Secretary of State caused me to reflect. Obama has given me more than reflection and pause, he worries me:

-the company he kept before and many now.

-decisions seem wrapped in moral equivalence and relativity like a Professor instead of a leader.

-a failure at diplomacy, normally a give and take affair; he seems to give, but the others pause or reject.

-like the Soviets, they wanted to make everyone equal in the Communist pattern, but some seemed more equal than others, like the leader clique. Obama flirts with Roosevelt, the socialist side and perceives a world of equals, ideological but perhaps reckless.

-an unsure hand on the ship of state, an inability to define our military strategy and our enemy; it isn't a war against terror, certainly not Islam, but whom and to what degree?

Krauthammer says it better than I:

“Renunciation of primacy abroad provides the added resources for more social goods at home. To put it in the language of the 1990s, the expanded domestic agenda is fed by a peace dividend- except that in the absence of peace, it is a retreat dividend.”

More enigmatic and not easy to understand or fathom but someone to closely watch and wonder!