

Opinion Page

JANUARY 10, 1997

At the crossroads

Ships log: Friday, Jan. 10: Location: Transiting the straits of a new year and a new Congress. Situation: Skipper Clinton continues to chalk up new and sinister allegations of financial scandal. Step-n-fetch Al Gore conjures up illegal tender in a Buddhist temple. Helmsman Newt is dealing with a bum Bonior torpedo. Weather: Uncertain winds blowing in, seas choppy.

General Quarters: At the crossroads of history, in the closing hours of 1940, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, reflecting on the British commonwealth's future and ability to withstand the impact and weight of world destiny observed, "Hope and within it passion burns anew in the hearts of hundreds of millions... the good cause will triumph. Right will not be trampled down. The flag of Freedom will still fly in all the winds that blow." A remarkable mind-set at a time when the battle for France had been lost; the battle for Britain was being waged and the battle for the Atlantic was yet to be fought.

Because of his opposition to tyranny and steadfast leadership, Churchill's place in history is secure. Today in America we stand at a similar crossroads; only our

threat is not from without, as was Britain's in 1940, but from within. Here in the land of big government, Americans are in crisis, big time. The awful truth is representative government is no longer



working and the economic and moral fabric of the nation is being undermined by a presidency of deception in league with the liberal left, foreign interests and corrupt labor leaders.

Ponder this, just for starters: Money totally corrupts our election system. Lying is commonplace among government officials. States, cities and towns are being bankrupted by the federal "racket" of unfunded mandates. Uncontrolled illegal immigration is costing billions of dollars in services, depriving legitimate citizens. Jobs in American industry are being shipped overseas because of U.S. trade deals. U.S. Policy is "up-for-sale" to foreign interests. Medicare and Social Security surplus funds are being stolen by the government. Federal

bureaucrats now have one of the nation's largest labor unions resulting in government growth that feeds upon itself.

On the moral front, a duplicitous Clinton administration is promoting advancement of the most radical policies of pro-abortion and pro-gay rights in history. Pushing sex education that promotes widespread sexual permissiveness and advancement of a Socialist-Marxist radical left-wing NEA Education Agenda.

Maggie Gallagher, writing in the Dec. 7 issue of the Washington Times, suggests that Clinton's latest scandal "Indogate" is unlike any other scandal in American history. She says, "Like all communities, America as a nation-state depends on drawing distinctions between insiders and outsiders, between fellow Americans and foreigners. When a president allows rich Americans to influence U.S. domestic policy to benefit their particular companies, that's a corruption of the democratic process. When and if (to ponder the heretofore unthinkable) a president allows foreign money to influence U.S. foreign policy, there's a different work that applies: Treason!"

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Is it just coincidence that a significant number of Indonesian businessmen, having financial interests in U.S. Asian policy, thought it worthwhile to break U.S. laws to donate to Clinton's political campaign? And, that Clinton ended the threat of human rights trade sanctions against Indonesia and designated a 1.7 million acre Utah wilderness a national monument locking up huge reserves of environment-friendly coal, whose only equal in quality is found in Indonesia. Result? Clinton's big dollar donors, the Raidy family of Indonesia, stands to reap billions in profits from coal sales.

It's believed by some that Americans returned a Republican majority in Congress because they know the Republicans will hew a conservative path and hold Bill Clinton in check or at least help him keep his promises to the American people. This writer believes that Clinton has long forgotten any promises he may have made to get re-elected. Now our newly re-elected President is heralded in the press as a traitor to his country. The truth may result in the Democrats' worst nightmare — that Clinton and Gore will be impeached for crimes against the people and Newt Gingrich will ascend to the Presidency!

Shore Lines: Monterey — Many residents using Monterey's wastewater treatment system are elderly and on low fixed incomes. Any increased cost to them would be devastating. It's a widely accepted principle, although often ignored, that the burdens and sacrifices required by actions taken to benefit the general welfare of the whole society should be shared equitably by all who benefit from that action.

Unfunded mandates by the Virginia DEQ are unreasonable when allowed to fall disproportionately upon "some" who are innocent targets of the actions. Purification of the environment is in the interest of all Virginians. All of us will ultimately pay in increased taxes and often higher prices for steps taken, publicly or privately, to avoid, eliminate or reduce pollution.

Unfunded mandates is a concept that treats citizens as vassals of a power-mad Washington (or in this case, Richmond) bureaucracy. It means that a central dictatorial agency writes the regulations that citizens not only have to obey but have to pay for, heavily and forever, by themselves. Can this be America? Will the flag of Freedom still fly in all the winds that blow?

Galley Gossip: Seaman Salty says, "How easy it would be for governments to reform if there were nothing to grab."

Ships log: Godspeed until next time.

(Sources: Sir Winston Churchill, E.C. McKenzie, Wing Books, *The Washington Times*)

The Recorder

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