

Starboard Views



By Al Woodson

# History repeats itself

**Ships log:** Friday, June 28. Location: Navigating between filegate shoals and whitewater mudflats. Situation: Skipper Clinton searching for a firebug, citizen Dole embarks on sublime quest, helmsman Newt claims, "Clinton is protected by the elite media." Weather: Monsoon season brings raging squalls and rough seas.

**General Quarters:** 1936 — In a small room inside Hitler's chancellery two Gestapo agents sift through SS personal files searching for enemies of Der Fuehrer; Jews are suspect. 1948 — In a small room inside Stalin's Kremlin two KGB agents sift through state personal files searching for enemies of the Comrade Leader; old bolsheviks are suspect. 1993 — In a small room inside the Clinton White House two "political creeps" sift through FBI personal files searching for enemies of the President; Republicans are suspect.

History repeats itself? Or so it seems; three events with a common purpose: "The ends justify the means." The big difference, of course, is the first two occur in dictatorships while the third has happened in a democracy — these United States of America. The Third Reich and the Soviet Union have been dispatched to the "dust-bin" of history, but we, as we should be, are very concerned about illegal actions and mis-use of power by a President who bears the final responsibility for his administration.

As of June 20, the President and his officials have put forth no less than six excuses for his "bureaucratic snafu" in seeking and receiving some 480 FBI personal files on private U.S. citizens, most of whom are former Republican staff members of the Reagan and Bush administrations. According to Rep. William F. Clinger, Jr., Chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, all of the administration's excuses have proven to be "deceptions" (translated: lies). According to David Blankley, Newt Gingrich's chief of staff, Clinton's two "political creeps" (his words), Craig Livingstone and Anthony Marceca have done this kind of work before. This is confirmed in Pittsburgh when former director of Gary Hart for President, Dennis Casey, appearing on NET TV on June 20, said Livingstone and Marceca were fired from Hart's campaign in 1984 for "blatant dishonesty" and for "digging up dirt on people to force them to carry out the wishes of the campaign." Casey also accused Marceca of pilfering several hundred dollars from the Hart campaign's petty cash. There's more to come folks — standby for a ram.

**Shore Lines:** As the Virginia Republican primary votes were being counted, the party's conservative membership began looking around for cover from the flak. Self-styled feudal lord and loose cannon, John Warner, had successfully broadsided any attempt to dump him over the side.

So be it — on principle, conservatives were right to try to dump Warner, but now, having fought the good fight, party loyalists must unite, get back onboard and in the fight for the Republican agenda, as expressed, on CNN by our new Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS), as a party of "less government, lower taxes and more freedom."

The Democrats, some say, have no agenda or nothing to offer. I disagree, they must have an agenda; though not obvious it is revealed in what they say, so, recently I have been recording some things I've heard the Dems say and I've seen in the newspapers.

The following is by no means a complete list but, somewhere in this listing is the Democrat agenda: Washington knows best. Elitist values are superior to parental values. Teachers are underpaid. Affirmative action is necessary to fight racism. Clarence Thomas is a philandering liar. Republicans are cutting Medicare/Medicaid and starving school children. Anti-ballistic missile systems are a waste of money. Goals 2000 money is free. We need to spend more on social programs. School vouchers undermine public education. Wealthy Americans are under-taxed. Bill Clinton feels our pain. GOP stands for Get-Old-People. A fetus is just so much protoplasm attached to a woman's body. A free college education should be given to everyone.

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## ★History

Teachers should be concerned more about a student's self-esteem than his grades. Medical savings accounts will cause Medicare to die on the vine. Republicans are mean-spirited. Cops are pigs and criminals are products of their environment. We'll give \$200 toward closing costs for all first-time homebuyers. We need to spend more on education. We want unrestricted funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Teachers need more pay. Unborn children require no protection. Americans are undertaxed. Condoms fight AIDS. The government needs more money to fight terrorism. Taxes are investments. Republicans want dirty

water. And finally, the Republicans only want to \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) in order to give huge tax breaks to the rich.

In view of the above, I have but one vote to give for my country, and I'll cast it for "less government, lower taxes and more freedom."

**Galley gossip:** Seaman Salty says, "Americans have never expected the best from their elected representatives, they've only hoped for the best."

**Ships log:** Godspeed until next time.

Sources: CSPAN, CNN News, NET TV, "The Washington Times Weekly," "Human Events," "National Review" and E.C. McKenzie, Wings Books.

## ★Relief

their homes and property.

We know the wheels of bureaucracy grind exceedingly slow. Whenever a final plan of action is chosen, it will still take months if not years to actually fill out the forms, cut through the red tape and solve the problem.

It's past the time to get started.

— CP

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