

OCT. 25, 1996

Starboard Views



By Al Woodson

# Presidency of deception

**Ships Log:** Friday, Oct. 25: Location: Heading for port in a squall of financial scandals. Situation: Skipper Clinton elevated to the status of Bozo. Citizen Dole scoring hits on character issue. Helmsman Newt says Clinton's latest scandal involving Indonesia makes Watergate look like beanbag. Weather: Storms continue.

**General Quarters:** In 44 B.C., commenting on how to become a man of honor, the great Roman lawyer Cicero said, "for the master ought to bring honor to his fine seat and not the fine seat bring honor to its master."

Two thousand and forty years later, with just two weeks before the 1996 Presidential election, it's painfully clear Bill Clinton has brought only dishonor to the fine seat of the presidency of the United States. Since taking office, on issue after issue, his dismal record exhibits a remarkable absence of honesty, truth and principle.

Gary Hoitsma, in the Aug. 16 edition of "Human Events," sums up the Clinton presidency, "This is a President whose monumental ethical lapses, character flaws, accumulated scandals, and politicization of government have diminished the stature and moral authority of the Presidency to a degree greater than at any time since Watergate." He goes on to depict Clinton's four year record as a determined effort to advance the agenda of liberal big government while, at the same time, masking his schemes in conservative rhetoric and il-

lusory fakes, to the right, about reinventing government, reducing the deficit and balancing the budget. It's all duplicity of style without substance.

In reality, Clinton's initiatives act on behalf of the liberal Left while deceiving the conservative Right; they include the largest tax increase in history; resulting in Americans having more of their income confiscated than ever before; an attempt to take-over one-seventh of the economy with a socialist health-care scheme that eliminates the people's freedom to choose medical services and their own doctor. Appointment of liberal judges to federal courtships while feinting to be tough-on-crime. Advancement of the most radical pro-abortion and pro-gay rights policies in history while saying he wants to make abortions rare and claiming he promotes family values. He drastically cut defense spending and undercut combat readiness by promoting gays in the military, while saying he supports a strong national defense.

Clinton's charade continues; he killed the balanced budget amendment while claiming to support it; he advanced gun control while saying he supports gun owners' rights; he vetoed serious tax cuts while claiming to be for cuts in taxes; he advanced the radical left-wing NEA Education Agenda (Goals 2000) and blocked school choice reforms while exclaiming support of local control of education and freedom to choose.

Again, Hoitsma says, "What was going on here, as has been going on throughout the Clinton presidency, is cynical and coldly calculated political deception and manipulation. The object is not to inform, to advocate or even to persuade. The object is, first and foremost, to neutralize opposition, to give both proponents and opponents a sense of empathy and understanding, a feeling that even if he's not with us, he's not totally against us either." Clinton stakes out conservative ground, no matter how phony, while serving liberal ends.

Facts are, Clinton lies to Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Liberals and Conservatives alike. Sen. Bob Kerry, (D-Neb.) says, "Clinton's an unusually good liar. Unusually good. Do you realize that?" Yes, Senator, Americans are fast becoming aware that Clinton's duplicity devalues the truth and that he only succeeds through insidious deception.

During the final presidential debate Clinton lied (again) about the fictitious GOP "\$270 billion" cut in Medicare — truth is, the GOP bid increased funding at twice the rate of inflation. Next lie in the debate came when he said, "... the American Hospital Association said the budget I vetoed could have closed 700 hospitals ..." Wrong! — a remark the President of the American Hospital Association flatly denies. Clinton routinely plays to the conservative majority and posi-

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# ★Deception

tions verbally to the right of center but, conservative minded voters see no actual deeds that further conservative goals, only lip service and the greatest con-job in American history. All accomplished through Clinton's pretense to entertain one set of feelings and acting under the influence of another.

America can do better than Bill Clinton; your vote for Bob Dole is a vote for a better man for a better America. Character makes a difference and often the difference. He's someone we can trust and will restore honor to

the fine seat of the presidency so truth will reign again and keeping one's word will be routine.

**Galley Gossip:** On Thursday, Oct. 17, Clinton quoted what he says is from the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, "... a government of the people, by the people, for the people ..." Seaman "Salty" says, "Only a Bozo wouldn't know how it's from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

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

Sources: CNN News, Human Events and Cicero's offices.

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