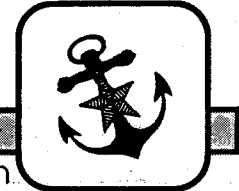


Opinion Page

NOV. 29, 1996

Starboard Views



By Al Woodson

Toast, hope and the environment

Ships Log: Friday, Nov. 29: Location: Shipwrecked off the Indonesian coast; salvage operations underway. Situation: Skipper Clinton dodges last-minute foreign money scandal to win second term. Citizen Dole goes down fighting. Helmsman Newt announces to Democrats, "I'm back!" Weather: Clear and calm.

General Quarters: A fundamental key story of the Presidential campaign is not Clinton's reelection but, the rejection of liberals of both parties by a perceptive voting public. Clinton held out and managed to win by engaging in slick media-scare fear tactics; gross deception and switching to Republican themes. Clinton, the AFL-CIO, and left wing socialist Democrats raised Dr. Goebbels' "A repeated lie gains acceptance" theory to an art-form in their treatment of medicare, social security, education and the environment. On Oct. 28, 1996, DNC co-chairman, Senator Christopher Dodd, (D-Conn) said on Don Imus' radio show, "Eight more days and I can start telling you the truth again. It's killing me, I'll tell you." A revealing statement but, it's also from a proven liar.

While voting for Clinton in spite of the facts, the American people recognized he's probably a crook who's incapable of governing, however, they decisively rejected the message of the liberal Democrat leadership, returning them to minority status again in both the Senate and House. The push by the Left and big labor wasted millions of dollars, on a clued-in electorate, trying, but failing to punish Speaker Gingrich and the freshmen Republicans of the 104th Congress. Clinton may be toast and America's hope is in the 105th Congress. This writer believes there's a significant conservative victory here, just under the surface, if the Republicans have the vision to see it.

Shore Lines: In July 1965, Adlai Stevenson delivered his Geneva speech about mankind: "We travel together, passengers in a little spaceship." The spacecraft of course is the Earth and we are the passengers. Environmentalists like to quote Stevenson's speech as their honorable calling to deal with growthmania and save the world from mankind's relentless irresponsible pollution. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) now visits itself on Monterey. The problem involves

the town's wastewater treatment plant. Its operation may cause pollution that kills some microinvertebrates in Strait Creek, a condition that could endanger mayflies and snails, and possibly a fish or two, along 100 yards (roughly) of creek bed. No species is in danger of extinction.

The DEQ says the town must spend \$226,000 to solve the problem; an unfunded mandate imposed on the town by elite government bureaucrats who are "just enforcing the regulations" whether they make sense or not (otherwise their life has no meaning.) That really amounts to environmental blackmail to conform to "new limits" and stricter regulations for ammonia nitrogen proposed as harmful to "fish and other aquatic creatures."

Common sense tells us that where mankind lives there is pollution. In Highland County there exist 6.4 humans for every square mile, making Highland County the most environmental friendly county in Virginia, as well as in twelve surrounding southern states. That aside, selling fishing licenses will result in "fish kills" exceeding anything that is likely to occur along 100 yards of Strait Creek. Common sense also says that paving roadways and highways or even the parking lot at the post office has a greater environment than the wastewater plant. Paving permanently eliminates the habitat of earthworms and microorganisms that are essential to plant life. That impact eliminates plant life that uses up carbon dioxide and produces oxygen — forever! In addition, is the life of an earthworm any less valuable than that of a mayfly or a snail?

Furthermore there's a clear

distinction between the "annoyance" caused by perceived or even actual pollution and the certain total elimination of areas of earth from the natural ecological system. Having said all that, there is the matter of public health. Will the pollution at Strait Creek result in diseases to man? Do any biochemical changes of the creek bed result in changes to the body tissues and fluids of mankind? Are cardiovascular changes, hypertension or heart disease possible from this pollution? Is there any possibility of embryonic malformation or still birth resulting from the pollution of Strait Creek? Obviously there is no hint of a "Love Canal" here in Monterey — the answer to all of the above is a resounding no!

This is a clear example that the bureaucrats in the DEQ and the EPA are out of touch with reality and the common sense care of our planet. To all readers of this column, I sincerely urge you write to Congressman Bob Goodlatte or Senators Charles Robb and John Warner, state Sen. Emmett Hanger, and state Del. Craig Deeds concerning this shallow out-of-touch bureaucratic environmental intimidation. Ask about Speaker Gingrich's "Corrections Day" policy to deal with problems of this nature — to correct unfair government regulations affecting local government and the people.

Galley Gossip: Seaman Salty says, "A bureaucrat is a man who is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."

Ships Log: Godspeed until next time.

Sources: Quotes from "Human Events" and "Progress as if Survival Mattered."

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