

November 8, 2006

A GREAT LOSS TO SOCIAL CONSERVATIVES

For more than a decade I have worked with Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania on vital issues important to social conservatives. Senator Santorum has been the leader of the pro-life movement in the Senate for two six-year terms. This year the Democrats decided the only way to oust Santorum from his seat was to run a pro-life Democrat. They picked the son of former pro-life governor, Bob Casey. Bob Casey, Jr. ran as a pro-life, pro-union candidate in a blue state that is heavily unionized and won. Bob Casey, Jr. will not be at the forefront of the pro-life movement as was Rick Santorum. Rick Santorum was also the leader in the Senate for religious freedom issues and he was the founder of the Congressional Working Group on Religious Freedom. That Senate organization, composed of Senators and NGO's such as the Religious Freedom Coalition, is probably now dead. All of the social conservative leaders on Capitol Hill will deeply miss Rick Santorum's leadership in the pro-life movement as well as the movement for religious freedom worldwide.

Will Bob Casey, Jr. keep his pro-life promises to voters? We will find out. The first day he serves as a Senator in January, I will be at his office with other pro-life leaders demanding that he carry out the Santorum pro-life agenda.

MORE SENATE RACE ANALYSIS

While not an activist, Senator DeWine of Ohio did vote with social conservatives most of the time. He was a good Senator whose loss was due to the incredible corruption in the Republican Party in Ohio. On his way out in the face of corruption scandals, Governor Bob Taft had an approval rating of only 18%. This doomed a very good pro-life social conservative Republican, Ken Blackwell, from moving into the governorship. Ken Blackwell was one of two high profile African-American Republicans running for statewide office this year. The toxic condition of corruption in Ohio also caused the loss of Congressman Ney's seat, another Republican forced to resign in disgrace.

While the victory of millionaire Bob Corker to the Senate in Tennessee buoyed Republicans, there was no real joy among social conservatives. In the GOP primary, conservatives split their vote between two good men allowing "moderate" Bob Corker to get the nomination. The race was very close in the general election because social conservatives did not come forward to support Corker until the last minute. When it was learned that Harold Ford had gone directly from a Playboy Club cocktail party to a church to film a "pro-family" commercial, social conservatives were outraged and got involved in the race. Although Corker is widely perceived as a "moderate," you never know what a man is going to do once he gets to Washington. For example, Republican Senator Mel Martinez of Florida was viewed by everyone as the "moderate" and yet in his first year in office was a champion of pro-life legislation. You can be positive that I will be at the "welcoming" reception for Senator Corker in his office the day he is sworn in.

Some Republican Senate losses were of no real concern to social conservatives. Senator Chafee of Rhode Island was pro-abortion and virtually always voted with the ultra-liberal Democrat Leadership. The only thing of value he did was to vote to organize the Senate for Republicans every two years. We never worked with him, he did nothing for us, and I am actually glad he is gone.

Missouri is always a hard state to call. Some great conservatives have come out of the state, such as former Senator and Attorney General John Ashcroft. Also, the Majority Whip in the House, Roy Blunt is from Missouri and his son, Matt Blunt is governor. (I honestly expect to see Matt Blunt, who is only 35 now, in the White House sometime in the future.) The state is the home of the conservative Assembly of God Church headquarters. But, the state is also the home to most of the nation's atheist organizations. Missouri has a strong secular and socialist history. The divide between secularists and Christians and between socialists and those who are for free enterprise cuts right through the state. The elections are bitter and the divide is wide. The state is also the center of bio-engineering for the United States and huge amounts of money flow in for stem cell and cloning research. Republican Senator Talent was against the stem cell research initiative, while his Democrat opponent was pro-cloning. Huge amounts of money were poured into this election by all sides and it was a down to the wire race. As people began to turn against the cloning initiative, Senator Talent began to make a comeback. When the race was within two points I was sure he would win, but there was a national anti-Republican tide that was driven by corruption and sex scandals.

As you know, I also lead a federal political action committee called Government Is Not God-PAC. My PAC was only involved in three Senate races. Most of the funds we spent went to defend the Santorum seat in Pennsylvania and to pick up the seat in Maryland for Michael Steele. Like Santorum, Michael Steele is a conservative Catholic who is strictly pro-life. As an African-American he believes that abortion has unfairly targeted the black community. Steele was the very first African-American of any political party to be elected to state wide office. As Lieutenant Governor, he helped to rebuild the Republican Party in a traditionally blue state. He had the ability to move blacks to the Republican Party based on social conservative issues. The Democrats feared this race more than any in the country because they believe they "own" the black vote. The last thing in the world Democrats want is a national leader who is black and Republican. The Democrats, of course, put up a white liberal and told blacks to vote for him because he was "blacker inside" than Michael Steele. The Democrats referred to Steele as an Oreo cookie (black outside and white inside) and used many other racial remarks during the race. In the end the Democrat machine in Maryland was able to beat this very pro-life Republican.

NO GOP SENATE VICTORY

Over the last 60 years, a seated President's party has on average lost 7 Senate seats and 37 House seats during his sixth year in office. President Bush did better at defending the position of his party at this six year point than did Clinton, Carter, Eisenhower, Nixon or Reagan. As of the writing of this report Republicans had lost six Senate seats and 27 House seats. The vote was so close in Virginia and Montana that there would have been recounts, but both Senators Allen and Burns conceded. As a result Republicans have lost control of the Senate as well as the House.

In Virginia, the loss by Senator George Allen was no real surprise. In his six years in office he offered no conservative legislation and refused to step forward to do battle on social conservative issues. He had homosexuals on his staff and did not publicly back the Traditional Marriage Amendment to the state constitution which received 57% of the vote. During the election he continually attacked the Democrat, but never spoke of his conservative values. Every other Republican incumbent in Virginia won by a comfortable margin.

Bottom Line: During their last 14 years in control of the Congress the Republicans forgot their principles and saw power as the final goal as the Democrats before them had. With no principles to guide them they wandered off into the wilderness of defeat.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE HOUSE NOW?

One of the greatest losses for social conservatives in the House was Congressman John Hostettler of Indiana. Over the past ten years Hostettler's name has appeared over and over again in this Chairman's Report and in the newsletter that preceded it. A truly great Constitutional thinker, Congressman Hostettler had introduced the Public Expression of Religion Act in every Congress since 2002. This bill, which I mentioned often, would have cut off funding for the ACLU to continue its war against American values and Christianity in general. He also authored the Marriage Protection Act that would have banned same sex marriage using Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution. This bill would have prohibited courts from finding same sex marriage legal, as was just done in New Jersey.

A lot of Republican seats were lost because of personal scandal. Congressman Sherwood in Pennsylvania received 93% of the vote in the last election. Then a woman who had had a five year sexual relationship with him filed an assault charge against him and a \$5.5 million lawsuit. This ultra conservative district will come back to the Republican column in 2008. In New York Congressman Sweeney was ahead by double digits until someone released a police report that he had beaten his wife. The week before the election he was down double digits. That seat also goes back Republican in 2008. In Florida there was the Mark Foley gay sex scandal that we have all read too much about. That is another Republican seat that will come back in 2008. Republican corruption in Ohio also cost the seat of Congressman Bob Ney who despite a federal indictment did not step down until just days before the election. Congressman Weldon, Pennsylvania social conservative, ran into trouble with corruption after his daughter's home was raided by the FBI during an ongoing investigation on influence peddling.

In the tide of defeat several good friends of mine that I work with on almost a daily basis were lost including J. D. Hayworth in Arizona and Jim Ryun in Kansas. Ryun is a former Olympic star whom I ran the Army 10-Miler with in Washington, DC. He was a pro-life hero in the House.

The degree of corruption in the Democratically controlled House before the 1994 blowout by Republicans was far greater than the Republican corruption of today. As a result, the Republican losses this year were not nearly as great as the 54 seats the Democrats lost in 1994. This should be a clear message to Republicans who want to represent "values voters" to get out of the mud and into the sunshine. Anyone involved in scandals related to finances, sex, drugs, or alcohol should be dealt with quickly and not protected by the leadership as was homosexual Mark Foley of Florida. The vast majority of Republicans who come to Capitol Hill are honest family men with a desire to represent their constituency. Men like Sherwood and Foley taint all of them.

More than likely the House will swing back to the Republicans in 2008 unless a real loser is picked to run for President. Having a far left socialist, San Francisco pro-abortion nut like Nancy Pelosi in charge of the House will scare Americans to death. She will be second in line for the presidency after Dick Cheney! For the next two years social conservatives have to take charge and choose candidates for 2008. Unfortunately, for the next two years of a Democrat controlled House, social conservative groups, such as the Religious Freedom Coalition will accomplish little legislatively. Everything, such as the Pledge Protection Act, will take more time, more people and more money.

THE LAME DUCK

The 109th Congress meets for the last time beginning Monday, November 13, 2006 and will retire just before Thanksgiving. Because of the election results, little or nothing can be expected to be accomplished other than votes to continue to fund the government for the next year.

INTERNATIONAL



President Omar al-Bashir and William J Murray face to face in the leader's private home.

On October 19th I departed the United States for Africa as part of a fact finding mission to the Sudan which included former Governor David Beasley of South Carolina; former congressman Mark Siljander; Scott Allen, a member of the 9-11 commission; Ergun Caner, President of Liberty University Seminary; and several other men. Just days before our departure President George W. Bush widened the sanctions against the Sudan because of the continuing violence in Darfur which has killed more than 200,000 and caused more than 1.9 million to flee their homes. As a result of the sanctions not even a VISA or American Express card can be used to pay a hotel bill in the Sudan.

Many Americans believe that the violence in Darfur is a continuation of the repression of Christians in the South Sudan. This is not the case. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed by the Sudan government and the Christian south in 2003 actually brought Christians into the government. About one tenth of the Administration is now Christian. The violence in Darfur is a complicated mixture of Muslim on Muslim with tribal overtones. The Sudanese government is being repressive in putting down the revolt in the Dafur; however, there is no shortage of guilt.

While in the Sudan our group met with President Omar al-Bashir and numerous members of his Administration, both Muslim and Christian. We also met with the leaders of the Catholic, Coptic, Episcopal and Evangelical churches. Christian leaders in the Sudan, even the leaders of the underground church, are against the wide sanctions the United States has placed on the Sudan. While many of these Christian leaders agree that the Sudan government should not receive military related supplies, they point out that the sanctions hurt those at the bottom of the society the worst and that Christians are for the most part at the bottom.



William J. Murray, Al-Haj Attalmanan the Wali of South Darfur, and Gov. David Beasley of South Carolina

During our time in the Sudan we visited camps for IDP's (Internally Displaced Persons) in the South Sudan and spent some time with the Wali or governor of that region. He assured us the area was safe and under his control; however, we had to be escorted everywhere by a military escort with heavy machine guns mounted on the back of pickup trucks. The area is in turmoil despite the heavy handed measures of the Sudanese government.

Upon my return to the United States I spoke to officials at the White House and at the State Department concerning my findings which were not necessarily those of the entire group. I believe that Omar al-Bashir has moved from being a Jihadist dictator to a position that now allows Christians in his government. While there, his government agreed to allow us to open Christian aid offices in Khartoum and to explore the creation of a Christian TV station. This is very good movement and I emphasized that with the White House. A few days after my return President George W. Bush agreed to open a new dialog with the Sudanese government concerning Darfur and the sanctions. While I am sure my findings were not the sole reason for this decision I am also sure that those findings did play a part in the Administration's review.

Although the Sudan is not a new Morocco, an opportunity is available for dialog with this government that can help the millions of Christians who live in that predominately Muslim nation.

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