

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

So, the American people have spoken! At least, that is what one is told. And, now, there is to be a change in the political direction of the country, we read. I was thinking, My Dear Grandchild: On what basis did the American electorate dump their Republican representatives in favour of Democratic representatives? Were careful analyses made about this and that, prior to the casting of ballots? As far as I can determine, the following 2 factors were prime causes for the average, qualified American voter to feel that there had to be a political switch on Capitol Hill, from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party:

- 1. The killing and maiming of American servicemen, serving in Iraq, a situation which has become a terribly unpopular subject, one that has caused untold misery to tens of thousands young Americans, males and females; and,*
- 2. US President George W. Bush has fallen from grace in the eyes of the moderate faction of the country with a terrible thud.*

I can fully understand the reason that President George W. Bush is unloved by the majority of the electorate in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave because I have heard that about half of the population of the country dislikes him, for one reason or another, while the other half hate him – for good and valid reasons. I am certain that the young wives of the dead American soldiers, who have been killed while on duty in Iraq, by and large, are part of that segment of the country that hate him, intensely. But it would appear to me that they only hate him because his policies in Iraq, thus far, have failed, miserably. Nobody loves a failure, you know. But, if Iraq were peaceful, today, and the killing and the maiming in the country had stopped, with American soldiers, lounging around their barracks, merely soaking up the sun while eating dates and what-have-you, it may have been a completely different outcome at the midterm elections. Everybody loves a winner, you know. When George Washington (1732-1799), Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, during the American War of Independence, and later, the first President of the United States, was able to beat the British Army in The Americas, as it was, then, known, he became the hero of the Revolution. If he had lost, however, no doubt, General Charles Cornwallis (1738-1805), the British general and statesman, whose defeat at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, was decisive in ending the American War of Independence, would have had General George Washington hanged by the neck until dead. General George Washington symbolised qualities of discipline, aristocratic duty, military orthodoxy, and persistence in adversity that his contemporaries particularly valued as marks of mature political leadership. Evidently, President George W. Bush lacks those qualities and that is the reason that his political party lost in the midterm elections.

It is very easy to criticise a person and/or to cast aspersions, but, put in the same position as that person who is being criticised, under nearly exactly the same situation, I wonder whether or not the critics could do better. It is a well-known fact that the man at the top of the pile sits alone and, for the most part, he is very lonely. Until one attains a high position, such as that of President of the United States of America, it is unlikely that one could understand the intensity of the job and the horrendous problems with which the President has to contend ... on a daily basis. It is obvious that President George W. Bush has become arrogant, during his tenure of office as the most-powerful, single leader of the world, and the political setback that he has just experienced will, I am sure, assist him to become a little more humble. I do not see President George W. Bush as being an evil man, far from it, but I do see him as having been a stupid one, at

least in the past. His choice of certain members of his Cabinet appears to be proof positive of that assertion. If I compare President George W. Bush with President Bill Clinton, it would be correct to state that President George W. Bush has not been proved to have been a fornicator in the White House, at least, there is no suggestion of this, as did President Bill Clinton, and that President George W. Bush has not been an utterer of falsehoods under oath, also known as a perjury, as did President Bill Clinton. What President George W. Bush attempted to do was to wage war against al-Qaeda operatives, where-ever they could be found, and to kill them as expeditiously as possible. For this task, he had the blessings of the people of the United States of America, following the killing of nearly 3,000 innocent people on September 11, 2001, in Manhattan, when 2, sky-jacked commercial aeroplanes, piloted by al-Qaeda operatives, crashed into The World Trade Center. President Bill Clinton did not have to face such a situation although, in a television interview, only a few months ago, he did say that he tried to have Osama bin Laden assassinated ... but failed in that quest. President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 in order to oust President Saddam Hussein, based on faulty intelligence that stated (a) Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and (b) Saddam Hussein was in league with Osama bin Laden, the head of the al-Qaeda terrorist organisation. More than half a million dead people later, it has been proven that Iraq never had weapons of mass destruction, although it wanted to build them, and that Saddam Hussein had never been in league with Osama bin Laden. One could say that President George W. Bush made grave errors of judgment and he cannot blame those errors on his advisors and/or inner Cabinet members.

Iraq aside, what other failings have there been from this Christian gentleman? Actually, President George W. Bush's economic policies for the United States have not proved to be very bad, at all, although, as was seen when Hurricane Katrina stuck Mississippi and Louisiana, the emergency organisational machinery, in place in order to get relief to the badly stricken areas of the country in times of need, was more than a little slow in arriving. I would criticise President George W. Bush, however, for making that secret trip to Iraq along with Dr Condoleezza Rice, a few years ago, because that was a fool-hardy thing to do. If the President had been killed, it would have caused chaos in the United States. He was lucky not to have been assassinated, in my opinion. I would suggest that President George W. Bush is prone to impulsive actions, actions which are not thought out, thoroughly. This is known in Texas, the birthplace of this gentleman, as shooting from the hip. I am certain that he could have obtained the same result as that secret trip to Iraq by other means.

I note, also, that the biggest threat to world peace, today, namely, North Korea, is not being invaded (liberated) by the United States, but, instead, the diplomatic approach has become the preferred method of approaching the Ultimate Leader of this repressive, Communist State, Mr Kim Jong Il. Prior to the attack on Iraq in 2003, President George W. Bush might well have asked Congress for approval to invade North Korea on the grounds that, in fact, the country did have weapons of mass destruction, including long-range, ballistic missiles that could reach American soil as well as nuclear weaponry, and that it had threatened to go to war against the United States if the United Nations imposed sanctions on the country. Iraq proved to be the President's undoing, not because Saddam Hussein should not have been deposed, but because insufficient thought had been given to winning the peace in Iraq after winning the war. Ultimately, President George W. Bush must, as the Americans like to say, carry the can for that blunder.

All that I have just said is water under the bridge, now, because, in the final 2 years of his term in office, it is unlikely that President George W. Bush will be able to accomplish very much: He will not have a power base on which to fall back. It appears that he has burned all of his political bridges, from the subterranean pylons to the exposed superstructure. I sincerely hope that the heart has not been cut out of this well-meaning, religious man.

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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