

Republican Heatwave May Cool Before Presidential Election

It's about that time again. It is strange to think that in less than a year from now the Presidential primaries will be well underway. The Democrats seem confident in their guy and he will likely have no competition from within his party. On the other hand, the Republicans are perhaps all too eager to replace the unpopular President.

Moderately Speaking
DAVID KANAAN

tale. If you remember, President Bush broke records in favorability polls coming into the last election and got his butt kicked. The reasons he lost are many, but certain patterns emerge that will make it tough for the Republicans.

It is early and anything can happen in the next year to create or kill a number of candidates including the President himself. Understanding that, here is a preview of what I feel are the pros and cons of each candidate, and why each will ultimately lose to President Clinton.

Let's start with the favorite, Sen. Bob Dole. His pros are his experience in the Capitol, as well as his connection with the very popular Rep. Newt Gingrich. His cons are exactly those same things.

Experience in Government is now synonymous with corruption in the mindset of the American people. This was proven with the record number of congressmen thrown out in the last election. Sure, record numbers of Republicans were elected, but their formula for success was being an outsider. Dole seems to epitomize the Washington insider.

His connection with Newt can be looked at two ways. Dole seems to be the right-hand man to the new conservative visionary. Though one has to wonder how much input Dole has really had with the Contract with America, and should a President be a right-hand man to a visionary or the visionary himself?

My prediction is that Dole will not last through the primary. He can be nasty and that will not help his cause. Let's face it, he is an older candidate than the Republicans hope to face Clinton with, and doesn't have the 'Grandpa' charm of former President Reagan to compensate for this.

Sen. Phil Gramm seems to fall into the same place as Dole. He, too, is an insider and portrays the image of a big money candidate who is out of touch with the general public. He puts his foot in his mouth much too often, and this could ruin him early.

Gramm has a few positives, however, such as a rag to riches pedigree and, of course, big money. He also resembles former Soviet Union leader Gorbachev, though that won't get him many serious votes (Hardy-har-har). He should lose early on after heated arguments with

Dole destroy both candidates chances. The last of the serious candidates is Gov. Pete Wilson. He is the prototype Presidential candidate for the Republicans, and I feel their best chance. He isn't associated with Washington (on paper), and could play the role of the outsider. He also is relatively young and moderate enough to not look overly right-wing, which has already started alienating voters.

Unfortunately, Wilson won't beat Clinton for trivial reasons. He loses ground with Clinton in the Charisma department, and is no where near as strong of a speaker.

The last reason the Republicans will lose could be a familiar one. A third candidate, possibly Ross Perot could enter the race. Recent polls show that Americans are fed up with both Parties, and 60% favor the creation of a third party. If this happens the Republicans will lose many anti-establishment votes, regardless of recent congressional reform successes.

—David Kanaan is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

The Lighter Side...

Some-where, Out-there

By Gene Redden



Who says we still need affirmative action? We made our quota!!!



Republicans Attack on Issues Make for Interesting '96

The Democratic and Republican aspirants to the presidency all have issues they wish would vanish before the 1996 elections. The two most emotional are about gays in the military and abortion rights.

Guest Commentary
CARL ROWAN

But it is clear that the federal courts, the Vatican, the American Civil Liberties Union and political leaders like House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) are not about to let these issues fade away.

Gingrich has announced that he will seek to undermine the Clinton administration policy of "don't ask, don't tell" and go back to the old policy of rejecting or ousting from military service anyone who reveals that he or she is a homosexual.

Gingrich seems so sure that the issue will hurt President Clinton that the speaker is flying into the face of a decision last week by District Judge Eugene H. Nickerson of New York that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy violates the free speech rights of homosexuals as well as their right to equal protection under the law.

One need not be a constitutional scholar to see that the Clinton compromise muzzles gays illegally when it forces them to "stay in the closet," and that it brands them as third-class citizens if it bans them from serving their country in the military. Judge Nickerson showed acute awareness that the present pol-

icy is a cruel farce, because many military recruiters and commanders do ask about sexual preferences and lifestyles, and thousands of citizens are regularly punished for acknowledging their homosexuality.

But Gingrich seems to believe that homophobia runs so deeply in America that if Congress passes an all-out ban on gays in the military, the Supreme Court will defer to "military morale" and public will approve the ban. Thus, as Gingrich plans it, President Clinton will lose votes whether he does or does not veto the oppressive new legislation.

Meanwhile, the Pope issues an encyclical that decries abortion as murder and deplores the use of artificial birth control at a time when Specter declares for the Republican nomination with special emphasis put on his pro-choice stance of most other Republican candidates.

Republicans who say the GOP platform ought to be silent on the issue of abortion seem destined to lose, with abortion and other procreation issues likely to cause bitter battles in state primaries and on the floor of the national convention.

This means that the spirit of semi-insanity that has marked recent debates in the Congress will become even more emotional and irrational.

We're in for some pain for which no pill exists.

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