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An Obama Presidency + A Democratic Congressional Majority: Six Predictions on His Recipe for Change

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AN OBAMA PRESIDENCY + A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY: SIX PREDICTIONS ON HIS RECIPE FOR CHANGE

Since the Providential timing of the U.S. economy has made it all but certain according to many pundits, that Barack Obama will win the November presidential election, barring some unforeseen October surprise, one might pause to wonder what constitutes the 'real change' in store for Americans and the world under an Obama-Biden administration. Though I am neither a 'prophet' nor the 'son of a prophet' to use Old Testament language, I think I can safely prognosticate six changes of interest to likeminded social-economic, religious conservatives. My predictions are first premised on President Obama staying true to his identity as the most liberal member of the Senate in creating and promoting his agenda. Second, the predictions assume an Obama presidency that will be working in tandem with a Democrat majority in Congress controlled by a left of center leadership (its current makeup under Pelosi in the House and Reid as Senate Majority Leader). With that in mind, here is my humble take on what Obama's 'change' means for the following areas.

- (1) *The War Against Terror and the Military* – There has not been a terrorist attack in over 7 years (with thanks due in my judgment to the highly unpopular current occupant of the White House) and a growing number of Americans are tired of Iraq and even Afghanistan. Though terrorism and the threat against the U.S. and its interests is real and shows no signs of abating, many war-weary citizens would respond favorably to the promise of 'peace, peace where there is no peace' to cite again a biblical metaphor. Such sentiments provide an ideal setting for Obama to reduce prosecution of the war on terror, particularly in the Middle East. I foresee that American troops will quickly be removed from Iraq and a token force, a symbolic number will be at least initially sent to Afghanistan. Nuclear proliferation in Iran and North Korea will become much more likely based on Obama's stated preference for talks rather than interventionism. Cuts in military funding will be necessitated to pay for the trillions in enormous government social programs already proposed (e.g. in health care). At the same time, after cuts are made in the military, if the armed forces are used to intervene, it will likely be in Africa as racial/class political considerations will supersede earlier national security/energy concerns. The recent creation of an African military command is an ominous sign of this trend.
- (2) *The Economy*—The ostensible reason that triggered a voting majority for Obama's presumed election, 'it's the economy stupid' will naturally cycle from recession to growth as investors realize the great buys that exist in undervalued stocks and the strength of economic capitalism eventually returns undaunted. Fortunately, Obama can blame the former administration while he waits for the economic rebound that will surely come.
- (3) *Taxation* – The resurging economy will allow Obama and his congressional ideological counterparts to raise both corporate and individual taxes in order to fund their massive social programs in entitlements, healthcare, and hot button environmental issues. These enormous tax increases will predictably put a drag on America's economic engine once again as both corporations and individuals pull back on investment and spending to offset the increasing take from the government.

- (4) *The Courts* – Perhaps the most disturbing result for social conservatives will be an Obama presidency's appointments to the Federal bench, including the Supreme Court. A president who is a firm believer in the power of the judiciary to implement social change via novel interpretations of a Constitution viewed as an ever evolving document is not likely to appoint strict constructionists to the bench. Sadly, this will enshrine the heinous so-called right to abortion into American law for at least a generation. I would venture that homosexual marriage will become the law of the land as well.
- (5) *Religious Liberty* – One of the first casualties of Obama's judicial picks to be further eroded will be the exercise of religious speech or at least religious speech that runs afoul of the judicial decisions affirming homosexual marriage and abortion; the kind of speech that comes from a literal reading of the Scriptures in a multitude of evangelical pulpits of America. A president who has openly belittled the notion of basing any part of American law on statutes or concepts derived from the Bible and spoken derisively of Americans who still 'cling to guns and religion', is not likely to intervene when people who hold such beliefs come under fire and are accused of 'hate speech.'
- (6) *Environmentalism and Energy* – The driving force of Obama's energy policy will not be the dire straits of America's families and businesses increasingly crushed by higher and higher energy costs. National security interests will not occupy the driver's seat either. Instead of these cogent rationales tied to critical needs, radical environmentalism of the Al Gore variety will steer the Obama energy policies. Forget any drilling in Anwar or off America's coastlands, forget the mining of oil shale, forget indeed the place of nuclear power in a well-rounded energy independence strategy. All of these things are anathema to radical environmentalist theology and are forbidden. Instead, look for government subsidies of alternative energy research which at best can only hope to impact the problem in the long term, too late to prevent an energy disaster. Further, expect continued punishment of producers of traditional 'dirty' energy such as oil, coal, nuclear etc. through regulation and taxation. The tragic result down the road will be a virtual economic chokehold on America's throat by the likes of OPEC in the Middle East and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. Such an intolerable situation might one day make the mythical 'war for oil' claims of the left a reality.

For Americans of my ilk, an Obama presidency represents 'the best of times and the worst of times' to borrow the phrase from a *Tale of Two Cities*, It is the best of times in the sense that we as a country have reached the point where our citizenry is willing to elect a president without regard to race or gender. However, Obama's radical political philosophy bodes the worst of times as the shadow of appeasement and creeping socialism casts a pallor across the land. Nevertheless, I am still hopeful. As one who still desperately clings to 'God, guns and religion,' I take comfort in what the good book says namely, "By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth." (Prov. 8:16, KJV). By faith, I believe that the guiding hand of Providence still has a major role for this great country to play in world affairs. Also whatever the particular makeup of the White House, as a Christian, I believe in the role of Christ's church in advancing God's kingdom in the hearts of men through the gospel; a task that knows no national or political boundaries. Then again, there's always that October surprise!

