
EDITORIALS



INTRODUCING CLARENCE THOMAS

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

Senator Metzenbaum, welcome to America. I think you are going to find that the country has changed quite a lot since you and your Liberal colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee locked yourselves away in that sublime fantasy chamber of yours. When was it that you last saw America as it is? November 4, 1980, when the electorate retired Jimmy Carter? Or did you stick around for the tax cuts, which Americans rather liked, and the 1984 reelection of Ronald Reagan? I know that by the 1988 presidential election you were lost to this world, for by then you were talking about America as though it were now and forever the Age of Aquarius and George Bush was a has-been.

I hope you will listen carefully to the testimony of President Bush's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Clarence Thomas. He is the black conservative who is to replace retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall. Here we have 1991 versus 1967, the year of Marshall's confirmation. During his testimony Judge Thomas will apprise you of what has been going on in America while you were away. America is no longer, if it ever was, a country obsessed by feminism, racism, militarism, or any of the other buzz words that trigger your hot air. As recently as last June, a Gallup poll found that a majority of Americans (and one-third of those polled were black) favor no more legislation aimed at reducing race, religious, and sex discrimination.

The trend toward judging an individual on his merits goes back quite a ways in Judge Thomas's America. But let me only point out that at about the time American Liberals sealed themselves off from the rest of the country, pollsters were coming up with interesting data. In 1980, a Gallup poll found that only 11 percent of your fellow Americans "agree with the proposition that 'to make up for past discrimination, women and members of minority groups should be given preferential treatment in getting

jobs and places in college.'" Eighty-one percent believed that "ability as determined by test scores should be the main consideration" for employment and college admission. In 1985, 77 percent of blacks polled by Gallup felt this way. Here we are at 1991, and, believe me, Senator, most Americans are not as obsessed with abortion and racial or sexual hiring as you seem to think they are. Remember the aforementioned June poll.

After listening to Judge Thomas, you will perhaps also discard some of your stereotypes of blacks. Not all are socialists or advocates of government hand-outs. Not all believe in racial politics or affirmative action. Not all want the courts of the country to make the laws of the country. And finally, not all blacks are Democrats; increasing numbers are returning to the party of Lincoln.

But if you insist on making Judge Thomas out to be a political and judicial freak, take a look at the Court today and compare it with the Warren Court. That Court had a substantial majority of your kind of people on it, all eager, as *Newsweek* magazine put it recently, "to peer into the Constitution and create new rights." Today's Court has a conservative majority and will soon have

a larger conservative majority: Are all its justices freaks?

The Court is as it is today because your party, amok in rancorous abstractions about its pet "isms," has won only one presidential election since 1964. The American majority has voted for a conservative presidential candidate for the last three elections. The electorate knew what it was doing. They oppose the kinds of things you and retiring Justice Marshall seem to think they favor, for instance, elaborate rights for criminals, abolishing the death penalty, favoring busing, quotas, judge-made law—in sum and in fine, removing government from the hands of the people and reposing it in the hands of elites and single-issue zealots.

Now, of course, you and fellow Liberal reactionaries are asking for "diversity" and "balance" on the court. But tell me, in what area of American life dominated by Liberal stand-patters is diversity allowed? How many Judge Thomases does one find in the universities, the media, or anywhere else where you have had your chance to politicize intellect? Diversity is indeed a good thing. Perhaps if Liberals had practiced it in *their* appointments where *they* dominate, they would not be so surprised to wake up in 1991 and see a Supreme Court reflecting an opinion they quite obviously do not understand, as you, Senator Metzenbaum, and your colleagues will demonstrate when you fall on Judge Thomas. □

MEMORY OF AN ELEPHANT

Here is how the Democrats are going to win the 1992 presidential election, which, incidentally, will be their first presidential win since 1976 and only their second since 1964 A.D.—back when you and I were young.

First of all, they are not going to enter any prominent Democrat until the last minute. In fact, for this election they may not even nominate a prominent Democrat. The way party leaders see it at this point, the less the public knows about their candidate the better. Right now the Democrats' only declared candidate is an ex-senator from—where else?—Massachusetts. But he is hardly the ideal candidate. Former senator Paul E. Tsongas has been listed in *Who's Who in the East* for over a decade. There is a lot of information in his *Who's Who* entry that could offend important members of the Democratic coalition, for instance, Eskimos, militant fat people, members of the Brotherhood of Hispanic Welders, members of Chicken Pox Anonymous. The Democratic party has become a very compassionate haven for minority groups, some of whose members can be touchy.

But the Democrats are not going to beat George Bush merely by the clever expedient of running a noncontrover-

sial candidate. They are going to have to have issues with which to batter the Republicans, and they have them—in spades. The Democratic leadership here in this great city of Machiavels is no longer going to run on their old mainstay issues of peace, compassion, and bread for the masses.

Ever since 1964, when they portrayed the Republican candidate, Senator Barry Goldwater, as a madman avid to blow up the world, the Democrats have portrayed themselves as the party most likely to save us from nuclear holocaust and World War III. This gambit is now passé. At present there is no nation capable of actually fighting us in World War III, except perhaps Yugoslavia, and really the only American voters who fear World War III with the Yugoslavs are a few hundred thousand college professors, many of whom are now growing out of their 1960s phase and taking up golf. Thus, for the first time in decades, the Democrats will probably shelve the peace issue.

Other old standards in the Democratic campaign repertoire are also obsolete. Fewer and fewer Americans are responding to the Democrats' pleas for establishing Holiday Inns for the homeless, complete with limousine services



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for transporting the homeless when they decide they need a lift. Compassion has its limits. So does paranoia. Not many Americans fear that the Republicans are going to reinstitute slavery in the South. Thus the race issue will not be such a prominent feature as in past campaigns.

Finally, the Democrats realize that they will have to abjure their venerable promise of bread for the masses (and expropriation of the fat cats). Most Americans doubt that the Democrats are helpful to the economy and realize that Democratic tax increases fall most

heavily on the middle class. There just are not enough fat cats to pay for the Democrats' bread machine.

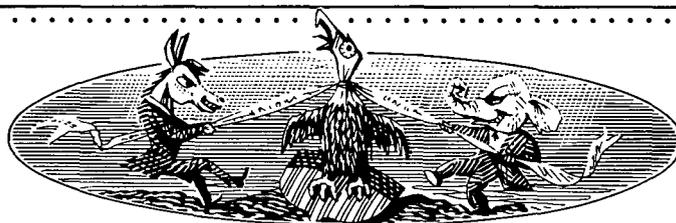
The Democrats are going to try something new. They plan to beat George Bush by proving that in 1980 Ronald Reagan and William Casey stole the presidential election from the ever-popular Jimmy Carter. Reaganites prevailed on Iranians to delay a hostage release until after the 1980 election, thereby dooming the re-election of the ever-popular Jimmy Carter. The ever-popular Jimmy Carter himself has

demanding a congressional investigation. All Democrats recognize that it is only a matter of time until the Bush Administration is drowning in scandal over this dastardly conspiracy.

But that is not all. Recognizing the American people's insatiable interest in the Iran-contra skulduggery of some years back, the Democrats, in alliance with Special Prosecutor For Life Lawrence Walsh, are going to hold up George Bush's nominee to head the CIA until all the Republicans come forward and admit their guilt in the shameless

bilking of the Ayatollah and the covert funneling of monies to the enemies of the Sandinista humanitarians. Finally, the Democrats have one more trump card guaranteed to finish off the Republicans in 1992: Watergate. The American people are still burned up about Watergate. The Democratic leadership knows this. If their Iran-contra issue and the theft of the 1980 election do not put the Republicans to rout, the Democrats can always open a new congressional inquiry into Watergate. And how about the Lindbergh kidnapping? □

CAPITOL IDEAS



CALIFORNIA CALAMITY

by Tom Bethell

“All the causes of the decay of Spain resolve themselves into one cause, bad government,” Lord Macaulay wrote. California's decline, when it becomes conspicuous, will be attributable to the same cause. Macaulay added: “The effects of a change from good government to bad government are not fully felt for some time after the change has taken place.” In California, the change cannot be pinpointed, but with the election of Gov. Pete Wilson, the state has definitely entered the era of bad government. A nominal Republican, Wilson has turned out to be a disaster—certainly a disaster for conservatives; no doubt also for California.

The overarching problem, to which Pete Wilson is a mere footnote, is that we live at a time when the idle and unproductive are regarded as morally superior to the productive, and as having the right to live at the expense of the productive. As a result, politics as currently practiced in the U.S. gives tremendous encouragement to the parasite hordes, who are awarded voting rights, entitlements, victim status, accusation privileges, state-subsidized lawyers, cash transfers, health benefits, and, perhaps most important of all, unofficial “representation” by a news media ready to set up a concerted howl of indignation should any of these benefits be reduced in the slightest degree. In 1991, it is still accepted without argument that the educated classes should act as the selfless

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advocates of the unproductive. It is an attitude that has persisted for twenty-five years or more in the U.S. and it shows no signs of abating.

All this might not matter too much if the productive were themselves effectively represented in the political arena. But they are not. This is the lot that has fallen to the Republican party, which for decades has been totally inadequate to the role. Representing the interests of the productive appears to carry with it a disabling stigma in our time. As a result, the Republican leadership has long been unable to stand up to the well-organized envy and greed (desiring the property of others) of the unproductive, and their political representatives. Socialism may have collapsed in Eastern Europe, but its animating emotions are alive and well in California.

Formerly the mayor of San Diego and junior senator from California, Wilson was elected governor in 1990, narrowly defeating Dianne Feinstein, the former mayor of San Francisco. Wilson enjoyed reluctant conservative support, mainly because it was feared that (as in 1980) victorious Democrats would gerrymander redistricting, once again giving them many additional congressional seats. As governor, however, Wilson has pursued a strategy of undisguised collaboration with Democrats, forming a coalition with them against his own party.

Since George Deukmejian took office, the California budget has doubled (the population increased by about 5

million in the same period, to 30 million today). In his second term, Deukmejian seemed to abandon resistance to the expansionist tendency of state government. Total state spending today is \$55 billion (it was about \$5 billion when Ronald Reagan was governor). By this spring it had become clear that the budget deficit was mounting to \$12 billion or more.

One might assume that a Republican governor in such a situation would cut spending and that Democrats (deferring to their vocal constituents within the recipient classes) would raise taxes. But Wilson, who represents the constituency of government (the redistributing classes), aligned himself with the Democrats in the legislature, all of whom except one were willing to raise taxes. Wilson then exerted pressure on a sufficient number of Republicans to pass the largest tax increase in the state's history, with the two-thirds majority that the state constitution requires for budget matters. Sales taxes were raised by 1.25 cents

(now 8.25 percent in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties); liquor and vehicle taxes were increased, and the top income tax rate was increased to 11 percent (from 9.3 percent). [See box for a list of the renegade Republicans.]

One state assemblyman who did not go along with Wilson was 34-year-old Tom McClintock from Thousand Oaks, an outspoken critic of pusillanimous Republicanism—one of the few remaining in the state, apparently.

“Pete Wilson completely misrepresented his intentions and himself to the people of California in 1990,” McClintock told me. “We are now seeing the real Wilson, who is further to the left than most mainstream Democrats.” In his campaign, McClintock said, Wilson boasted that he was the only politician in the state who had balanced budgets without raising taxes, and he said of Dianne Feinstein: “She's a taxer-and-spender, and I'm not.” With the new tax increases, said McClintock, “Pete Wilson is forcing the average California family to cut its budget by \$1,000 so that he can increase the state's general fund budget by eleven percent.”

The tax increases are comparable in size to those enacted in New Jersey last year by Gov. Jim Florio. In conformity with the dishonest budget-reporting practices that are now standard journalistic practice nationwide, the spending increases that accompany Wilson's tax increases have been referred to as spending cuts. It's the same old

Renegade Roster

Republican assemblymen (and women) who went along with Pete Wilson's tax increases:

1. Carol Bentley (San Diego)
2. Gerald Felando (San Pedro)
3. Bill Filante (Marin)
4. Robert Frazee (Carlsbad)
5. Beverly Hansen (Santa Rosa)
6. Tricia Hunter (San Diego)
7. Bill Jones (Fresno)
8. David Kelley (Riverside)
9. Charles Quackenbush (San Jose)