



Women rally in Nashville, TN

Santa Vs. God

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"They must learn to make their views known without trying to make their views the only alternatives. The great decisions of Government cannot be dictated by the concerns of religious factions. This was true in the days of Madison, and it is just as true today.

"We have succeeded for 205 years in keeping the affairs of state separate from the uncompromising idealism of religious groups and we mustn't stop now.

"To retreat from that separation would violate the principles of conservatism and the values upon which the framers built this democratic republic."

- Senator Barry Goldwater, 1981

Nouveau Conservative talk radio hosts, the cheer-leaders for the fanatic Pro-Life wing of the Republican Party, can't find enough excuses to describe why the Republicans lost the midterm election - and lose it they did. They lost a critically important 50/50 balance in the Senate and wound up with a mere nine seat majority in the House; an unusually bad mid-term performance for an out of power Party, especially considering the number of problems facing the United States. Some of the issues that should have had voters reeling from Biden and the Democrats include high-inflation, rising national crime, an uncontrolled border, unpopular "pandemic" shutdowns, a costly and bloody exit debacle in

Afghanistan, a growing FBI abuse of power attacking students' parents, free speech advocates and political adversaries, and a weak mis-guided foreign policy that has led to a preventable war in Ukraine.

Incredibly, the totality of these issues was not enough to urge voters who were focused on a woman's right to individual liberty to vote Republican - the party still hypocritically touting themselves as being the defender of individual liberty - the same party that screamed, "My body, my choice," when it came to taking 'the jab.' The reason for voter inertia is simple enough. While Republicans accurately describe the new Democrats as authoritarian Marxists intent upon destroying republican valued America and replacing it with a Globalist oriented Socialist state, twenty million or more voters are more possessive about their personal liberty than Republicans would like to believe.

The question, of course is: "Are the Republicans that blind, that ignorant, that radical in their belief that abortion is the overarching issue in America today - or are 'those in control' willfully destroying a Party that once stood at the center of American values?"

One must look back to the country's founding to understand the seriousness of this moment, and its relevance to the future of America. During the Federal Convention the delegates faced three seemingly insurmountable problems that might have prevented agreement on a new unified government: the place of religion in politics; relative legislative representation between the small and large states; and the future of slavery in the country.

Knowing that the new country was surrounded by hostile forces that might join to attack and take back parts of the new nation, the Founders understood the need for a common unified defense provided by a central government.

The issue of representation was settled with a bi-cameral legislature that would give each state equal representation in the Senate. The issue of religion was solved with a prohibition of a religious test being required to hold office. And, the issue of the future of slavery was kicked down the road, with a ban on the importation of additional slaves after 1808.

For the Founders, a unified federal republic was more important than any one issue, regardless of its importance to some one state or group. That is not the case today. With their every action, when cohesiveness in their ranks is required, the Republicans are preventing unity with their stance demanding the prohibition of abortion, as strongly as it can be made, and in as many places as it can be had.

Whether you like the Republicans or not, and whether or not their recent deeds have matched their rhetoric, the Republicans have stood for smaller government and less intrusion into citizens' lives - what would rightly be called the core values of America. The Democrats, with all their talk about individual liberty, have been the Party of more centralized government and more intrusion into the lives of Americans. Over the past decades they have become the party of promises and give-always; in essence buying votes with gifts from the central government.

Many voters confuse their ballot with a Christmas wish list. Other voters confuse the ten amendments comprising the Bill of Rights with the Ten Commandments.

And, regardless of either party's claims as to who was running for office, there were just two candidates on ballots across the country, Santa Claus holding the Scales of Justice, with a woman bearing a tattoo reading, *"My body, my choice"* lying across both sides of the scale, and God holding a tiny fetus wrapped in a blanket embroidered with the inscription, *"Protect the pre-born."*

The obvious reason for the election loss and the Republicans' denial of the reason for that loss has led to a panoply of confusing rhetoric. This refusal to see reality, makes the Republicans' vision of the future of the country somewhat concerning. One must ask what did the Republicans expect?

In a country founded upon the principle of Individual Liberty, it appears that there is still a large number of citizens willing to sacrifice some material comfort in exchange for some Liberty.

Back in the days when the Republican Party had not yet been given over to the Religious Right, referring to Rev. Jerry Falwell's Southern Strategy to bring religion and the abortion issue front and center into politics, Senator Barry Goldwater was quoted as saying, "Every good Christian should kick Jerry Falwell in the ass."

Goldwater was concerned about religious groups like Falwell's Moral Majority, 'that cloak themselves in conservative political garb and claim the right to dictate their moral beliefs on Americans.'

The Senator felt that Moral Majority styled religious factions were not aware of the ultimate ramifications of their influence. "There is no more powerful ally one can claim in a debate than Jesus Christ, or God or Allah ... But, like any powerful weapon, the use of God's name on one's behalf should be used sparingly."

"I'm frankly sick and tired of the political preachers across this country telling me as a citizen that if I want to be a moral person, I must believe in 'A,' 'B,' 'C' and 'D.' Just who do they think they are? And from where do they presume to claim the right to dictate their moral beliefs to me?" Goldwater said.

Taking exception to the Moral Majority and other religious groups being described as 'the new right' and the 'new conservatism,' Goldwater said: "I have spent quite a number of years carrying the flag of the 'old conservatism.' And I

can say with conviction that the religious issues of these groups have little or [nothing to do with conservative or liberal politics.](#)"

Barry Goldwater was very much against the Southern Strategy. He famously said that allowing religious nuts into the Republican Party would be its doom. He was right.