

## **VEIL OF SECRECY COMES DOWN: MART REVEALS POLITICAL LEANINGS 10/03/00**

Bill O'Reilly of Fox News' "The O'Reilly Factor" came up with a novel idea on a recent segment for what I believe would be a real meaningful campaign issue. It was honesty. I do not care what your political affiliations are, we face an almost total lack of honesty in the present national election rhetoric.

I am not referring to promises one is unable to keep due to circumstances beyond one's control, but outright lies the speaker has no intention of honoring.

Never before in my recollection has there been so much blatant hypocrisy exhibited in an election campaign. The most appalling aspect of the whole sordid affair is that the electorate seems oblivious to the fact and could care less. The candidates sense it and appear to insult their intelligence and prevail on blind ideology for their support.

I for one am able to understand how this is possible given the general public's seeming fascination with those with a predilection for aberrant and disgusting behavior. Willingness to sacrifice constitutional rights, freedoms and national security for personal economic gain is another. The latter tend to fall into organized groups that are constantly being pandered to and promised anything for their votes.

Most puzzling to me, however, is the media's role in all of this. Supposedly they represent the intelligentsia of this nation, yet they violate every rule of reporting fair and balanced portrayals of actual events. They are without question the single worst example of dishonesty and hypocrisy known to modern man. In the past they have artfully danced around their obligations in giving the public fair and balanced reporting. Only the most discerning viewer or reader would at times be able to recognize deceit. Today they no longer attempt to carry on the charade, realizing many are dumb enough to swallow their subliminal message or too wrapped up in their blind ideology to care.

I have found there is one bright spot in this most dismaying situation and that is the aforementioned Fox News and the "O'Reilly Factor" in particular. They call it fair and balanced and I have found it to be just as they represent it. The format is very basic. All O'Reilly asks is that politicians come on the show and answer questions. Needless to

say, at least two of the most prominent have refused his offer of a full hour of prime time television news coverage.

Why not tune him in and see if your personal choice has declined his invitation? Will you vote for a coward or someone who refuses to reveal their real agenda? Are you driven by blind ideology? Are you someone to whom truth and honesty no longer matter? Are you willing to forgo your basic human rights and the future of yours and your children's or your grandchildren's for economic gain? Are you willing to forsake and excuse immoral behavior?

I have tried to be fair and honest in this presentation. No politician, group or individual has been named. I will digress at this point and name three individuals who I believe are sincere, honest and make an awful lot of sense in reflecting on the political scene. They are Alan Keyes, Bill O'Reilly and Jesse Ventura. I feel vindicated in straying from my above pronouncement since none of the three are currently running in the upcoming national elections. I owe a debt of gratitude to at least the last two of the group for defining just what is my true political affiliation – a fact I should have recognized a long time ago when Peter Bishop, a true 60s hippie, labeled me a “Good Redneck”. I am and have been all along without ever knowing it, a fiscally conservative liberal (Ugh! I hate that word.)

I suppose that presents me with a real quandary. Who can I possibly vote for?