

## **THIS TIME AROUND IT'S A VOTE AGAINST, NOT FOR March 16, 2004**

I worked for many years with a log buyer who often used an expression that is still indelibly etched in my mind. It was "I am confused." I dreaded to hear it because it usually meant the log tally was out of sequence and we had a mess to sort out.

Today I find myself haunted by that phrase. I seem to be in a perpetual state of confusion. Perhaps "disgust" would be a better term, especially when it comes to politics or social issues. Much of what we see and hear in the media appears to me to be an insult to my intelligence. The trouble is that half of the people in this country have no trouble swallowing it.

I will start with the United Nations as one example. Can anyone tell me what its purpose is? I thought it was formed to protect and preserve human life and human rights. Since its inception we have seen murder, strife and mayhem engulf several nations while that monumental farce sits on its hands. The latest example is Haiti, which is what brought it to mind.

How any politician in this nation or any other can support and advocate total reliance on the UN to resolve these problems boggles the mind. Now we learn that the oil for food program the UN has administered since the first Gulf war is fraught with fraud. Good luck in ever getting to the bottom of that mess and learning the truth.

Please excuse the focus on Democratic candidates for President and their supporters, because that's all we have heard about for weeks now. Since Kerry seems to have fought his way to the top of the heap seeking the nomination. I'll start with him.

Basically we have another ultra-rich, ultra-liberal Massachusetts politician with total empathy for the poor and downtrodden. He is a decorated war hero who is the only one who has dragged the issue of patriotism into the campaign. The perfect candidate to lead this nation through the perils of terror; a leader who has voted consistently since the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993 to cut funding for every defense facility needed to prevent further attacks. He is a proven leader with strong views on both sides of every issue. His problem seems to be that he doesn't hold them very long.

One more thing that should endear him to the left is his rapport with several foreign leaders he claims are hoping for his election. It's one of his claims I believe. I suspect it's more for their interest than for ours.

I have seen one bright spot in all the political rhetoric flying about and that was from Ed Koch, life-long Democrat and ex mayor of New York City. He is voting for Bush because he, like me, feels the real over-riding issue is the security of our nation. We both feel that if we are not free to enjoy the other issues, what use will they be? Koch and I feel none of the Democratic candidates has the backbone and resolve to adequately defend the country. It's encouraging to learn there are people who are not driven by blind ideology. It will be thinking people like he is who will steer the course of this nation.

It is sure to be a close election. The nation is fairly evenly divided on political and social issues. The choices we are given are well matched and therein lies the quandary. Both are privileged, rich, and Yale graduates, Yuppies who are out to save the world from greed, avarice and mayhem.

Most of us of both major political parties will be voting for the same reason, many for Kerry simply because they are against Bush. I will follow suit, so to speak, by voting not so much for Bush as against Kerry.