

Presidents of Hope and Change

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The Battle of the Behemoths: Conformity versus Change

As I sat down to choose a subject to begin this newsletter, I received an email that is being passed on the internet; "I'm Tired" is the title authored by Robert A. Hall. Later forwardings brought it to my computer as "We are all tired. Let the revolution begin." Research indicates that it initiated in March 2009. Since he obviously doesn't like left wingers, this right-wing author does have some points I can still identify with: working hard for a living, earning my way, bailing out those who caused this awful dilemma, Islamic militantism of any persuasion, discrimination of any color or creed including reverse discrimination, illegal aliens and more. This former Vet and Massachusetts legislator is pretty disgusted with what has come to pass and I can't blame him for being disgusted. I'm pretty disgusted myself with what has been done to us, by our own.

Others did not bring us to this mess, our own did this to us. Whether it was done by greed, or dishonesty, or elitism, or any other thing you want to name, no one outside of us did this. We allowed this to be done and we must face that in order to fix it. Many of us are disgusted and voted for change to stop the nonsense. I do have a problem with all these years of misuse of our system being placed at the doorstep of the new team on the block. It took longer than 6-7 months to produce this mess. The same thing happened with Hoover. He was in office 6 months and I don't care how good he was at it, he could not have created the Great Depression by himself in that six months! He had the leadership reins. But, it is the word "revolution" that truly scared me.

We were born in revolution as I mentioned in Presidents in Hope and Change. Revolution is our middle name. Do we want it to be the revolution of our forefathers, with its terrible toll in lives, fortunes, with the destruction of 233 years of effort? That happened in both our Revolutionary and our Civil Wars where family fought family as the division between loyalties escalated into open warfare. In the Revolutionary War those loyal to the Crown (we were British subjects way back then) and those demanding individual rights caused enormous divisive heartache for the participants. Benjamin Franklin lost his only child, his son to this division. We had to win; to lose to the Crown would have created hardships that can only be imagined. We all know of the Civil War and the terrible destruction of lives, families, and property. Our nation almost collapsed under that awful moment in time. We would have been sitting ducks for any nation that wanted to attack while we were weakened. Can you imagine what would happen now IF we physically fought each other? The military governments of the world would immediately go for our jugular. We don't want to go that route!

My book, Presidents of Hope and Change is, about American hope and change. Guided by the hope and vision that we could do better, in 2008 the American electorate voted for change. The ongoing sky battle between conformity and change is polarizing our nation. This 21-month pattern started election day 2008 and continues until July 2010. Rounds 1 (election) and 2 (inauguration) were won by change. We voted out the old establishment and reached for change. But conformity refused to grasp that the USA electorate demanded change, and so it fights the same old battle. Round 3 is upon us September 1 thru 15, 2009. Decision-making time is *now*!

This time conformity has adopted a strange costume and strategy. It shouts that it wants change, gets in your face, demands its rights, screams down legitimate discussion, plants misinformation and sows fear. It is in a fight to the death. Why? Conformity wants to win. Just what would it

win? It is conformity, with its feet firmly planted in the past, so its ultimate goal is conformity, tradition, the past, status quo. Conformity represents no change regardless of the tactics it uses to achieve its goal. It is *using* the semblance of change as a *means to its personal end*. This is a masquerade. We must distinguish between the change we voted in and the false change being waged by conformity. We voted change because the past was preventing us from moving forward. We cannot move forward if we are stuck in a past which has already proven itself unworkable. We must release our past in order to face our future.

Change is always risky but necessary in order to move from stagnation to growth, from the past which binds us to itself, to the future which uplifts and beckons. Our Founding Fathers moved out of their past as British subjects to reach for the hope of the future that made them American citizens (not subjects). The conformists of the revolutionary era were Tories, loyal British subjects. Had they won, there would be no America. At that point in history, change won. The Founding Fathers were agents of change willing to risk all for the hope of individuality and freedom.

Which are you? It's okay to be scared because change requires risk. Is there a future if we stay stuck in the past? The energy of change is screaming "Yes We Can". The energy of conformity is screaming "No We Won't." Where are you in this? I am a "Yes We Can" person and I sincerely hope that if you voted for or support change you will stay strong and allow change to win this ferocious battle. Decision time is now and these decisions will have consequences and results. President Obama, rev up that powerful engine you had working for you for your election. Supporters of change, get out there and fight misinformation and fear with the truth. Put your money and your efforts where your mouth is. If you believe in hope and change, fight for it through your words and your efforts (not your fists).

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