

News 'n' Views

by and for members of the Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

Volume 7 Issue 1

January, 2006

Monday, January 16



Coco's Restaurant
11510 South Street, Cerritos, CA
1/2 mile east of 605 freeway

6:00 dinner 7:00 program

Program: *Community Activist and Past President of the HHDC*

Charlie Ara

Topic: *A Celebration of the Birthday of
Martin Luther King, Jr.*



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More Democratic Victories in 2006!



My President's Report

By Alon Barlevy

I hope you had a great holiday season, where you got to spend time with your friends and loved ones. The holiday period is a time to relax and recharge our energy. Energy that will be desperately needed in 2006, when we work hard to take back our government. From the House and Senate, to the governor's mansion, and the Secretary of State who will make sure that California will not use Diebold voting machines in 2008 (funny how the Diebold machines themselves have a tendency to cast votes for Republican candidates).

January is the beginning of a very busy year that is coming up before us. We have not had an official meeting since October, as we showed the Wal Mart movie in lieu of a meeting in November, and held a holiday party in lieu of a meeting in December. We therefore have quite a bit on our plate this month. We have to vote on new officers, and vote on other important matters such as amendments to by-laws and what we would like to spend our money on.

In addition, to the business that we need to conduct, our President Emeritus, Charlie Ara, will be our guest speaker who will tell us about Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech. Charlie is very well qualified to talk about this topic, as he was there!!!

Speaking of MLK, last year we worked hard to try to get the City of Cerritos to recognize the 3rd Monday in January as an official holiday. While we were not 100% successful (and we are working towards that eventual goal), the city did agree to hold 2 events in honor of MLK. The first being a film to be shown on Wed, Jan 11 6:30-8:00pm at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. The second will be on MLK Day, January 16th, at 10:00 am at the Cerritos Civic Center. Please make an effort to attend either or both of those events, to ensure that they do not get canceled next year.

Also, we have begun a new year, so please plan on paying your dues at our January meeting. The dues are listed on the last page of this newsletter with a membership form if any of your personal data has changed. We especially would like your email so we can communicate with you more efficiently.

The Greatness of Martin Luther King, Jr.

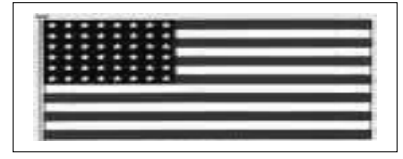
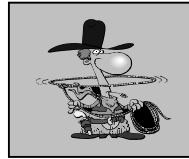
Dr. King received numerous awards for his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement. Among them were the following:

- Selected as one of the ten most outstanding personalities of the year by Time Magazine, 1957.
- Listed in Who's Who in America, 1957.
- The Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, 1957.
- The Russwurm Award from the National Newspaper Publishers, 1957.
- The Second Annual Achievement Award from The Guardian Association of the Police Department of New York, 1958.
- Selected as one of the sixteen world leaders who had contributed most to the advancement of freedom during 1959 by Ling Magazine of New Delhi, India.
- Named "Man of the Year," by Time Magazine, 1963.
- Named "American of the Decade," by the Laundry, Dry Cleaning, and Die Workers, International Union, 1963.
- The John Dewey Award, from the United Federation of Teachers, 1964.
- The John F. Kennedy Award, from the Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago, 1964.
- The Nobel Peace Prize, at age 35, the youngest man, second American, and the third black man to be so honored, 1964.
- The Marcus Garvey Prize for Human Rights, presented by the Jamaican Government, posthumously, 1968.
- The Rosa L. Parks award, presented by The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, posthumously, 1968.
- The Aims Field-Wolf Award for his book, Stride Toward Freedom.

Bush is a Liar!



The Caballero Roundup



Barbara Boxer Asks Presidential Scholars About Former White House Counsel's Statement that Bush Admitted to an 'Impeachable Offense'

Dear Larry,

Yesterday, I issued the following release about President Bush's recent admission that he has personally authorized domestic surveillance without a court order. I sent the referenced letter to four presidential scholars, asking for their input:

- Cass Sunstein, University of Chicago Law School
- Bruce Ackerman, Yale University
- Susan Low Bloch, Georgetown University Law Center
- Michael Gerhardt, College of William and Mary School of Law

I hope you'll take a moment to read my statement below, and then forward this to everyone you know.

In Friendship,

Barbara Boxer

December 19, 2005

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) today asked four presidential scholars for their opinion on former White House Counsel John Dean's statement that President Bush admitted to an "impeachable offense" when he said he authorized the National Security Agency to spy on Americans without getting a warrant from a judge.

Boxer said, "I take very seriously Mr. Dean's comments, as I view him to be an expert on Presidential abuse of power. I am expecting a full airing of this matter by the Senate in the very near future."

Boxer's letter is as follows:

On December 16, along with the rest of America, I learned that President Bush authorized the National Security Agency to spy on Americans without getting a warrant from a judge. President Bush underscored his support for this action in his press conference today.

On Sunday, December 18, former White House Counsel John Dean and I participated in a public discussion that covered many issues, including this surveillance. Mr. Dean, who was President Nixon's counsel at the time of Watergate, said that President Bush is "the first President to admit to an impeachable offense." Today, Mr. Dean confirmed his statement.

This startling assertion by Mr. Dean is especially poignant because he experienced first hand the executive abuse of power and a presidential scandal arising from the surveillance of American citizens.

Given your constitutional expertise, particularly in the area of presidential impeachment, I am writing to ask for your comments and thoughts on Mr. Dean's statement.

Unchecked surveillance of American citizens is troubling to both me and many of my constituents. I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Securing America Without Destroying Liberties

By Senator William Byrd:

I believe in America. I believe in the dream of the Founders and Framers of our inspiring Constitution. I believe in the spirit that drove President Lincoln to risk all to preserve the Union. I believe in what President Kennedy challenged America to be.

America, the great experiment of democracy, where the strong are also just, and the weak can feel secure, and the soul and promise of America stand as a beacon of freedom and a protector of liberty which lights and energizes people around the world.

Today, sadly, that beacon is dimmed. This Administration's America is becoming a place where the strong are arrogant, the weak are ignored, and freedom is conditional.

Yes, we hear high-flown language from this White House about bringing democracy to lands where democracy has never been. We seem mesmerized with glorious rhetoric about justice and liberty. But, does the rhetoric really match the reality of what our country has become since the heinous attacks of September 11?

I speak, Mr. President, of the actions of our own government, actions that have undermined the credibility of this nation around the world. These actions, taken one at a time, may seem justified. But taken as a whole, they form an unsettling picture and tell a troubling story.

Remember the abuses at Abu Ghraib. They were explained as an aberration.

Remember the abuses at Guantanamo Bay. They were denied as an exaggeration.

And the taxpayer bought-and-paid-for Defense Department manufactured propaganda in Iraq? What a perversion of the American tradition of freedom of the press!

Now, we read about U.S. taxpayer financed secret prisons in foreign lands called 'rendition.' What a word -- rendition. It sounds so vague, almost harmless. But the practice of 'rendition' is abhorrent. The Administration's practice of 'rendition' is an affront to the principles of freedom -- the very opposite of principles we claim we are trying to transplant to Iraq and other rogue nations.

The Administration claims that "rendition" is a valuable weapon in the war on terror. But, what is the value of having America's CIA sit as judge and jury while deciding just who might be a threat to our national security?

Such determinations receive no review by a court of law. The CIA simply swings into action, abducts a person from some foreign country, and flies them off to who-knows-where. With no judicial review of guilt or innocence, a person can be held in secret prisons in unnamed countries, or even shipped off to yet another country to face torture at the hands of the secret police of brutal governments.

Is this the America that our Founders conceived? Is this the America of which millions dream dreams? Is this the beacon of freedom inspiring other nations to follow?

The United States should state clearly and without question that we will not torture prisoners and that we will abide by the treaties we sign. To fail to do so is to lose the very humanity, the morality, that makes America the hope for individual liberty around the world. The disgusting, degrading, and damaging practice of rendition should cease immediately.

"It's not about who they are. It's about who we are." Those are the words of my colleague, Senator John McCain. Senator McCain is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He is a former prisoner of war, and he is exactly right.

There is no moral high ground in torture. There is no moral high ground in the inhumane treatment of prisoners.

Our misguided, thuggish practice of "rendition" has put a major blot on American foreign policy, and now comes this similarly alarming effort to reauthorize the Patriot Act retaining provisions which devastate many of our own citizens' civil liberties here at home. What is happening to our cherished America? Any question raised about the wisdom of shredding Constitutional protections of civil liberties with roots that trail back centuries is met with the disclaimer that, "the world has changed" and that the 9-11 attacks are in effect a green light to trash the Constitution. To seize private library records, to search private property without the knowledge of the owner, to spy on ordinary citizens accused of no crime in a manner which is a sick perversion of our system of justice must not be allowed. Paranoia must not be allowed to chip away at our civil liberties.

The United States of America must not adopt the thuggish tactics of our enemies. We must not trash the Fourth Amendment because the United States Senate is being stampeded at the end of a congressional session.

Government fishing expeditions with search warrants written by FBI agents is not what the Framers had in mind. Spying on ordinary unsuspecting citizens without their knowledge is not what the Framers had in mind. **Cont. on Page 7**

By-law Amendment to add *Assistant Treasurer* as an Officer Will Be Discussed by HHDC Members

A proposed by-law amendment to add *Assistant Treasurer* as an officer, whose responsibility will include filing all required forms with the appropriate government agencies, will be voted upon at the January general membership meeting. Only dues paying members can vote.

HHDC Enters the 21st Century!

Our HHDC Newsletter will now be available on your computer!

Please send your email to: Larry Caballero
email:

democab@comcast.net

We also are prepared to accept advertisements to be published monthly according to the following rates:

1/8 page \$20

1/4 page \$35

1/2 page \$65

full page \$125

Six Month Rate	Yearly Rate
1/8 page \$100	\$200
1/4 page \$175	\$350
1/2 page \$325	\$650
full page \$525	\$1,050

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Vice-President _____ Nikki Noushkam 562-809-8608

Treasurer _____ Mike Stabile
treasurer@hhdemocrats.com

Recording Secretary _____ Denise Stabile
secretary@hhdemocrats.com

COMMITTEES

Programs _____ Muhammad Amin 714-295-2478

Legislative _____ Floyd Allen 562-651-9264

Ways and Means _____ Cecil Goff 562-402-7848

Public Relations _____ Charlie Ara 562-865-4075

Newsletter
Larry Caballero 714-523-3436
democab@comcast.net

Membership
Denise & Mike Stabile
membership@hhdemocrats.com

Historian _____ Charlie Ara 562-865-4075

Parliamentarian _____ Maureen Allen 562-651-9264
Hospitality _____ Cindy Anderson 562-860-5914



Securing America Without Destroying Liberties

Cont. from Page 5

Handing the government unilateral authority to keep all evidence secret from a target so that it may never be challenged in a court of law is not what the Framers had in mind.

We have heard reports that the military has spied on Americans simply because they exercised their right to peaceably assemble and to speak their minds.

We have heard that the military is tapping phone lines in our own country without the consent of a judge. Labeling civil disobedience and political dissent as "domestic terrorism" is not what the Framers had in mind.

Our nation is the most powerful nation in the world because we were founded on a principle of liberty. Benjamin Franklin said that "those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Our founding fathers, intent on addressing the abuses they have suffered at the hands of an over zealous government, established a system of checks and balances, ensuring that there is a separation of powers within government, so that no one body may run amok with its agenda.

These checks are what safeguard freedom, and the American people are looking to us now to restore and protect that freedom.

So many have died protecting those freedoms. We owe it to those brave men and women to deliberate meaningfully, and to ultimately protect those freedoms Americans cherish so deeply. The American people deserve nothing less.

Recently, the Senate voted to stop a bill that would have allowed the abuses of American civil liberties to continue for another four years. The message of this vote is not just about the Patriot Act: it is a message that the Senate can stand up against an over-reaching executive that has sacrificed our liberties and stained our standing in the world.

The Patriot Act has gone too far. Secret renditions should be stopped.

Torture must be outlawed. Our military should not spy on our own people.

The Senate has spoken: let us secure our country, but not by destroying our liberties.

Thank God for checks and balances. Thank God for the United States Senate.



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Charlie Ara

Priest, Psychologist, Humorist & Author

11010 Artesia Blvd. Suite 202 Cerritos, 90703
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Laura Lee

樂復青

Broker Associate

Bus: (562) 924-3381 ext. 146

Res: (562) 926-9860

Fax: (562) 924-5951

e-mail: lauralee24@hotmail.com



Astro Realty, inc.

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PLEASE JOIN US!

Please fill out the information below and return it with your **annual dues** to HHDC Membership, 11245 183rd Street #136 Cerritos, CA 90703. Make your check payable to the Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club.

YEAR 2006 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____ OCCUPATION / EMPLOYER _____

Annual Dues are not tax deductible (please circle one)

Single membership \$20.00 SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION / EMPLOYER _____

Member and spouse \$30.00

Senior (65 or older)

and Students \$10.00

Lifetime \$150.00 Couple \$250.00

Please check here if you do **not** want your name, address, e-mail, and phone numbers released to other club members.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am anxious to help all I can.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can help part-time. Please call me.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable to help at this time.

*Celebrate the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Monday, January 16, 2006
at our HHDC General Meeting*

