

opinions

column LEFT

And The Winner Is...

BY LARRY CABALLERO,
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The presidential campaign is coming to a close in a few days, and we will finally know who the next president of the United States will be. In one way, I hope it is George W. Bush. Yes, I know, he's a Republican and I'm not.

Nevertheless, I think it's only fair to give Bush the responsibility to clean up his mess of the last four years. We have the largest deficit in our nation's history thanks to his mismanagement, and it is only fitting that he be given the responsibility to lower it.

He won last time because he was a compassionate conservative, but his actions on the economy are not that of any fiscal conservative I know. Shouldn't we hold him responsible for this?

He said he was a conservative who was a uniter, but this country has never been so divided since Vietnam. We should hold him responsible for this, too.

We have a war in Iraq that has no end in sight, so we should give Bush the opportunity and responsibility to get us out of there with some semblance of victory and with our pride intact.

Bush is the only president to govern with a net loss of jobs since Herbert Hoover. Let's give him the responsibility to stop outsourcing and to help create good paying jobs.

These criticisms of Bush are not new ones. I've written about them before. Yet I'm beginning to believe that no president is going to be able to clean up this mess in four short years, although it only took four years for Bush to mismanage the war and the economy to the point where there are few answers.

Republicans are always talking about the individual's responsibility to solve his own problems. So let's give Bush the opportunity to solve his!

It's amazing how Republicans cry about the Democrats and government entitlements, but they don't say no to their Social Security checks after 65 or their Medicare benefits. If they are unemployed, they don't say no to collecting unemployment or disability. It's only when it's the other guy who needs help. Then he is responsible for his own life. Of course, Republicans will always blame the unions for a downturn in the economy because they are asking for better pay or benefits for their employees.

Shouldn't we hold Bush responsible for wasting an historic economic surplus by giving away the money to those who didn't need a tax cut? Sure, Republicans will say the tax cuts benefited all Americans, but in reality, the very rich did very well and the rest of us hardly noticed any change at all.

Republicans want the Iraqis to be responsible for their futures even though we've pretty much destroyed their infrastructure and made the

PLEASE SEE NEW DEALERSHIP PAGE 7

Column Left

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

country more unstable now than before Saddam. Shouldn't we hold Bush accountable for the contempt the rest of the world has for this country? Isn't he responsible for improving relations with our allies so they can be more supportive of our goals around the world? Do we really have to carry 90 percent of the financial burden and loss of lives in Iraq?

Therefore, I hope Bush wins on November 2. It's his responsibility to find solutions to these problems. Let's see how responsible he can be!

Text of Article

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Larry Caballero

Newsletter Editor, Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club

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