

opinions

column LEFT

What Do We Do Now?

BY LARRY CABALLERO,
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The election is over and Bush has won. And all of the future vote counting won't change that. So what do we Democrats and Independents do? Crying over this fact won't do us any good, so we need to be vigilant that the Republicans don't act as if their victory is a mandate to do whatever they choose over the next four years.

Cheney couldn't wait for the last vote to be counted before he talked about a mandate. Well, a three percent win is not one. And before Bush starts spending his "capital," we need to be sure that he is spending it wisely.

For starters, we should not allow him to pack the courts with judges with extreme ideologies. *Roe v. Wade* is surely going to be an issue in court appointments since the Republicans talk so much about being "pro-life." Of course, I have never met a Democrat who was "pro-death," but let's not confuse the issue. Senator Arlen Specter has already had his wrist slapped for suggesting that Bush should not choose extremist judges.

In truth, the Republicans are not really pro-life. Yes, I said it, and I mean it. The Republicans are pro-birth. There is a difference. They care about the unborn child, but once it is born, Republicans walk away. It's up to the family, they believe, to take care of the child. No matter if they are unable or unwilling to do so. No matter if the child is underfed, poorly clothed, abused, ill and receives a substandard education.

The Republicans talk about being pro-life, but what about their support of capital punishment? People do die from those lethal injections! And how many innocent people, on both sides, have died in Iraq for a war that was not necessary? I wonder how many Iraqi citizens were pregnant women. What about those unborn children?

So life is important if it's an unborn American baby and maybe not so important after that.

We also need to watch Bush and his party as they make economic policy. The Republicans will push for making the tax cut for the rich a permanent thing. This is already the first time in American history that we have had a tax cut in time of war. The government has no money to provide for the needs of poor children, and there has been much debate whether our soldiers were adequately prepared to be fighting in Iraq, but never mind. Tax cuts for the very rich are more important.

It's amazing that Bush spent so much time talking about how strong a leader he is, and how he was better able to protect us from terrorists. Yet the urban areas, that would most likely be attacked first, all voted for Kerry.

It will have to be Congressional leaders in the blue states who act as the conscience of government for the next four years. As a Democrat, I am as religious as any Republican, so I'll pray for them, and for Bush, too. Let's all pray that he truly sees the light and does what is right for all Americans, unborn and born alike.

Text of Article

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Larry Caballero

Newsletter Editor, Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club

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