



Who will tell the people?

By Ron Walters • NNPA Columnist

My frustration with the Democratic Party grows day by day, as the leadership squanders its responsibility to its constituency and to the American people. So, who had to step up? Rep. Jack Murtha, a Democratic member of Congress from Pennsylvania, and a decorated ex-Marine, called for a pullout of American troops not only because of his view that no plan exists for how to pursue victory, but because the American people are way out ahead of their leadership.

In late August, a Gallup poll asked about troop withdrawal, and a majority felt that "the U.S. should withdraw some troops (27 percent), or all of them (26 percent) from Iraq. In the most recent polls, a majority now believes that going into Iraq was a mistake and that the troops should come home.

But the position of Democratic Party leaders sounds like it's coming out of the White House. Hillary Clinton believes that it would be a mistake to pull out American troops because Iraq could dissolve into a civil war, creating a situation "where terrorists are free to basically set up camp and launch attacks against us."

Let me get this straight: terrorists need Iraq to launch attacks against the U.S.? They didn't need Iraq to bring down the Twin Towers in New York City, so why would they need Iraq now? I guess Clinton's argument is that it would be easier for them to do so. Yes, but we are also making it easier by staying there: killing innocent civilians as well as combatants, rousting families out of bed in the middle of the night, taking away their men, torturing them for information, in a scenario geared for them to love us for a long, long time.

A 10 year-old could figure how why they hate us, and will continue to do so, but a town full of Harvard, Princeton and Yale Ph. Ds. in Washington, D.C. are stumped.

Black folks love Bill Clinton, and he has been critical of the war saying to an audience sponsored by the Ladies Home Journal, that it can't succeed. But more recently, he said in upstate New York that Bush's strategy could. Which is it? His former aide, Dick Morris thinks it's a case of "good cop, bad cop" they are playing.

I'm more worried about Hillary, because if she runs in 2008, Black people will be out there laying down the red carpet. But that doesn't make sense because Black support for

George Bush is the lowest of any president in modern history and much of that is driven by Black opposition to the war in Iraq. A recent, widely-cited NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found that only 2 percent of Blacks approved of Bush, while a Pew poll, appearing about the same time, had Blacks at a 12 percent approval rate. I tend to favor the latter as the more accurate one, but either way, this is really low and Black opposition to the Iraq war, along with Katrina, account for most of it.

In one poll this year, Blacks were twice as negative as Whites about the American involvement in this war. Furthermore, Blacks account for 25 percent of the entire military, but so turned off are they about the war that they are a big reason why the Army, for example, is not achieving its recruiting goals. Five years ago, one in four recruits was Blacks, but now one in seven are Black.

Hillary is not the only Democratic leader who has a "me-too" position. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader in the House has parted company with Murtha, and in a vote where the Republicans forced the hand of Democrats to put up or shut up on their view of whether the troops should be immediately yanked - you guessed it - they shut up. Rep. Murtha's non-binding resolution that U.S. troops leave Iraq as soon as is practicable went down to a massive defeat (403-3), with only three Democrats, Rep. Robert Wexler (Fla.), Rep. Cynthia McKinney (Ga), and Rep. Jose Seranno (NY), the only holdouts. They alone had the guts to tell the people, the war should stop.

The administration is gambling to buy time for Iraqi troops to take hold and provide security, and for a real government will come into existence. Nothing we have seen suggests that will happen. So, the American people question whether our resources will be devoted to the extension of democracy and the rebuilding of the material infrastructure in the American Gulf or the Persian Gulf. The Republican-controlled Congress has the audacity to question who will rebuild the American disaster in New Orleans, Mississippi and Florida. The answer is obvious. Show the troops you love them by bringing them home; spend the money taking care of your own; and stop the illusion that it is possible to win a military victory in a global "war on terror." Tell the people the truth.

Study verifies impact of tax cuts on Blacks

By Henry Allen Hurst • Special to the NNPA from the Afro Newspapers

"The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 will deliver substantial tax relief to 136 million American taxpayers by ensuring that Americans have more to spend, to save and to invest. This legislation is adding fuel to an economic recovery. We have taken aggressive action to strengthen the foundation of our economy that every American who wants to work will be able to find a job." — President George W. Bush, May 28, 2003

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - A recent study conducted by United for a Fair Economy, a Boston, Mass.-based economic policy group, reports that many Americans won't have much to be thankful for this holiday season because of tax cuts that favor the wealthiest Americans.

"As the nation prepares for our annual feast of bounty and thanksgiving, many U.S. families will not be participating," said Anisha Desai, UFE's program director and a co-author of the report. "This is because the multiple breadwinners each family needs these days don't all have jobs. Of those that do, many are not making enough money to pay for turkey and trimmings for everybody in the family."

The nonprofit organization's 2005 study, "Nothing to Be Thankful For: Tax Cuts and the Deteriorating U.S. Job Market," asserts that the president's prediction that the 2001 tax cut would translate into more than 5.5 million jobs has fallen short of its goal. The organization also says the jobs created after the enactment of the cuts are not "quality jobs" paying at least \$16 per hour.

"President Bush's Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, far from delivering on the promises made to create 5.5 million new jobs, has carved out a new low in job recovery after a recession," said Scott Klinger, who also co-authored the report and is director of UFE's tax policy group. "The president's tax-cutting policy is a failure in this regard, and we need to recognize it as such."

UFE also reports that changes in tax rates have no "discernible effect" on employment, which can be proven when cuts proposed by any administration in the past 60 years are examined.

Instead, UFE says, tax cuts are the least of many variables that determine job growth. For example, the group says, economic trends such as strides in computer technology create some jobs and eliminate others.

"A lot of jobs that are lost each year are manufacturing jobs," said Liz Stanton, director of research at UFE and co-author of the report. "As these technologies develop, a computer or robot can replace people."

The group does charge, however, that there is considerable evidence that tax cuts increase budget deficits.

UFE says that the tax cuts lack so much merit that the current weakness in job creation is unprecedented since World War II era. According to the report, Black employment is at 89.6 percent, compared to 95.2 percent for Whites and Latino workers average more than \$10,000 per year less in earnings than Whites. "No workers have really benefited from President Bush's tax policies, but Blacks and Latinos have suffered disproportionately," said Gloribell Mota, a bilingual education specialist at UFE.

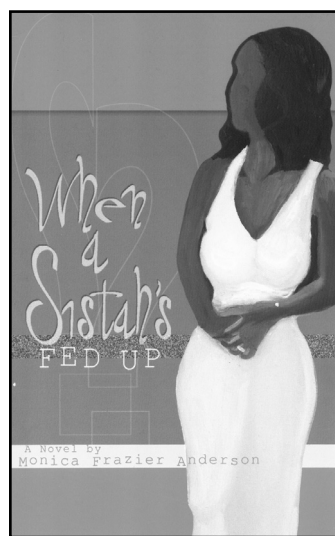
UFE also holds tax education programs and says that participants are not only overwhelmingly unknowledgeable about Bush's tax cut package, but they lack information on taxes overall.

"When it comes to Bush's tax cuts," said Mota, "people don't connect it with how it will benefit them in the long run. To a lot of people, a tax cut always sounds good. People don't think about public services like police, fire departments, emergency medical and public schools.

"These things are going to cost more to maintain, and places where there's a lot of poverty and not a lot of tax revenue are going to feel it more. Tax cuts have to come from somewhere, and it's going to come out of your pocket."

Book

Review



When a Sistah's fed up

By Monica Frazier Anderson

Reviewed by Cheryl Smith

going fine. She thinks. And then things start to unravel and she finds herself not trusting anyone.

Things would have been better if Preston was not so insecure, refusing to stand by his wife's side as the "First Man." Or so she thought.

And he, well they say there's nothing like a woman's vengeance, so get a glimpse of Preston in action.

Dr. Anderson has crafted an intriguing tale, with well-developed characters and plenty of suspense.

It appears that once you start trusting one character, something else happens to confuse things.

The Mayor certainly has her hands full as she tries to deal with the snakes down at City Hall and

try to keep her family together. There are her two children, who both have issues. One a spoiled, self-centered whiner and the other, coming of age young man.

Talk about reality. Dr. Anderson provides a clear picture of the American family, in public and private. And the picture is not always pretty.

But in the end, the mayor makes some decisions that put her needs and desires in the forefront, instead of on the back burner.

Women will cheer her decisions, maybe. And the male chauvinist will have much to say about Faith's actions.

But when all is said and done, who and what matters?