



America: Left Behind?

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

According to a new poll by *The Hill* newspaper in Washington, D.C., 54 percent of likely voters believe President Obama does not deserve another term based on his economic record. With rising gas prices once again punishing working Americans and with fear in the air over unemployment, there is a very good chance that Obama will join Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush as a one-term president. And if Obama goes down, so does the liberal movement in America, which has made great strides over the past three and a half years. Consider the following developments:

- Gay marriage is now accepted by most folks.
- “Medical marijuana” is openly sold in many cities to people with no maladies whatsoever.
- Anyone who opposes abortion can be categorized as biased against women.
- Successful Americans and prosperous small-business owners are not paying their “fair share” in taxes.
- And you are racist if you oppose Obama’s liberal political viewpoint.

In addition, nearly half of American households are now receiving government benefits, but if you want to control entitlements, you are anti-poor. Almost 50 million folks are receiving food stamps, and a record amount of workers are filing for disability payments. The federal colossus in Washington is reaching into every area of American life even as Obama has increased the debt by more than \$5 trillion in less than four years. This is liberal nirvana: a big-spending central government dispensing “social justice” and calling many shots in the free marketplace. Soon the



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feds will control the health care industry. Of course, the results of the left-wing blitz have been disastrous. The economy is moribund, with banks refusing to lend capital for expansion because they fear business failure. Our currency is tottering because the USA has to borrow billions of dollars every day in order to service debt. And employers are loath to hire because they don't know how Obamacare will affect their bottom line. You would think the left would take a look at the chaos in Europe and slow down a bit. Not happening. If you watched the Democratic convention coverage, you heard some incredible stuff. Sandra Fluke and her crew not only want you to pay for female birth control; they also want you to pay for “transgender medical needs.” That means if Harry meets Sally, and they want to switch genders through expensive surgical procedures, the American taxpayer gets the bill. And if you oppose that, you are a bigot.

I believe most Americans are uneasy with the liberal direction even if they are not fully convinced it is at stage three. But it is. The USA is on the verge of becoming a combination of Greece and Sweden, where almost anything goes and fiscal responsibility is a joke. If the president wins reelection, this country will continue to undergo a radical social and economic upheaval. But if Obama loses, the liberal movement in America will be dealt a crushing blow. That's what's at stake on Nov. 6.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show “The O'Reilly Factor” and author of the book “Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama.”

A Nun’s Words Of Wisdom

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Media Services

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Let's talk about the other speech. Yes, Bill Clinton delivered a 48-minute stemwinder to the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday night that was so mesmerizing even Republicans praised it. But after the huzzahs for Clinton fade, save a little nod of affirmation for Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK, a Roman Catholic social justice group. She did not speak long — about seven minutes. Her delivery was not particularly powerful. But with the moral authority of her calling, she did something that has sorely needed doing for some weeks now. She rebuked “I built that.” Granted, the rebuke was only implicit: she never specifically mentioned the new GOP slogan of rugged individualism. But it was no less powerful for that. As should be obvious to any fair observer, this latest spasm of feigned outrage is built upon a lie, i.e., that in a speech in Roanoke, Va., President Obama told business owners they did not build their businesses, that their success was not a product of their own initiative: “If you've got a business, you didn't build that.”

What Obama actually said in 170 words or so is the same thing Martin Luther King used to say in four: “All life is interrelated.” So if you built a business, said Obama, part of its success is due to the fact that “there was a great teacher somewhere in your life” or that someone sacrificed to “create this unbelievable American system” that allowed you to thrive, or to the fact that “somebody invested in roads and bridges” over which your inventory traveled. Contrary to the GOP narrative, he didn't deny the importance of initiative. “The point,” he said, “is that when we succeed, we succeed because of our individual initiative, but also because we do things together.” Of course, if it's true Obama's comment has been mischaracterized, it's also true that, contrary to what an inarticulate ad lib and the Democratic spin ma-



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chine would have you believe, Mitt Romney doesn't “enjoy firing people.” No surprise there. Building mountain ranges out of sand grains is part and parcel of politics. What's vexing, then, is not that the GOP lied but that it seems to believe its own lie. On signs, websites, buttons and T-shirts from the streets to the Web, to the convention hall, “I built this” has become the party's new war cry. Enter Sister Campbell. This nun, whose social activism has put her at odds with the Vatican, did not talk business. She talked about the “nuns on the bus” tour she undertook to contest cutbacks to services for vulnerable Americans that would be necessary under the budget envisioned by Romney and his running mate. And about the people she met along the way. Like the 10-year-old twin boys in Toledo who act as sole caregivers for their bedridden mother. Like “Billy,” from Milwaukee whose job has cut back his hours and who could not make it without food stamps. Like “Jini” in Cincinnati whose sister Margaret lost her job, lost her health insurance and so, lost her life when she was diagnosed with cancer. “I am my sister's keeper,” said Campbell. “I am my brother's keeper.” Can you remember when that went without saying? This was Obama's point. In a recent song, Bruce Springsteen put it like this: “We take care of our own.” And we do. Or at least, we should. Rugged individualism is great. But in shredding social safety nets while chanting, “I built this,” the GOP doesn't celebrate individualism so much as deny the interconnectedness of life, scorn the notion of a social covenant or greater good, exile conscience from the public arena. “There but for the grace of God” becomes “Every man for himself.” On Wednesday, a nun gently reminded us of what should be obvious: “We are better than that.”

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Texting Law Makes Roadways Safer

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (Sept. 5): Sioux Falls streets, already lauded as the country's safest city streets to drive on, will be even more so starting later this month. It no longer will be legal to text while driving after the City Council passed a ban on the dangerous and ubiquitous habit in a recent 7-0 vote. The ban will go into effect Sept. 28 and will be a primary offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$200 and 30 days in jail.

The idea of banning texting while driving has been on the national, state and local stage for years. Anecdotal, it would seem every other car or truck on the road was being operated by someone who also was texting or looking down at their phone. Statistically, that's actually not far off, with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration saying half of drivers aged 21-24 text while driving. States with bans also note this is not just an issue with young drivers, as the cell phone distraction has crept into the soccer mom and business owner sets as well. And while South Dakota will still be one of only 11 states without a ban on texting and driving, it is impressive for the council and the city to take this leadership role. Our state legislators, who twice have neglected to enact a state-wide ban, should take note. Opponents of the ban say this will only make drivers attempt to hide their texting, taking their eyes farther from the road, and point to the difficulty police will have with enforcement. By making it a law, however, many drivers will think twice and comply with the new regulations. And we'll all be safer for it.

The Drought And The Deluge

LINCOLN (Neb.) JOURNAL STAR (Sept. 4): A few generations ago, a drought such as the one now gripping the Midwest would have triggered an outpouring of sympathy for farmers dependent on the whims of the weather for their livelihoods. Now things are not so simple. A prediction of record farm income earlier this month from the U.S. Department of Agriculture drove home how effective the safety net is for some, particularly those who raise commodity crops like corn and soybeans. ... The backlash has been fierce, particularly from conservative and tea party types. ... What's changed during the past couple of decades is the growth of crop insurance. The number of acres insured by U.S. farmers has risen from 45 million acres in 1981 to 262 million in 2011, according to the National Agriculture Statistics Service. Taxpayers subsidize an average 60 percent of the premiums farmers pay for crop insurance. Payout can be up to 85 percent of the revenue that would be generated based on average yields. So in a year such as this one, when the price of corn is soaring to record levels, even farmers who find cobs with only a few kernels on their shriveled stalks still can expect to get a sizable check from their insurance company. ... The Center for Rural Affairs in Lyons is among the organizations calling for scaling back crop insurance. The center wants Congress to enact caps on subsidies for crop insurance premiums for individual farmers. The deluge of taxpayer dollars flowing to farmers in this drought could and should boost support for the center's position.

SPEAK OUT!

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TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Sept. 10, the 254th day of 2012. There are 112 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 10, 1912, the jungle character Tarzan made his debut as “Tarzan of the Apes” by Edgar Rice Burroughs was first published in The All-Story magazine. (The novel was published in book form in 1914.)
On this date: In 1608, John Smith was elected president of the Jamestown colony council in Virginia.
In 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.
In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.
In 1919, New York City welcomed home Gen. John J. Pershing and 25,000 soldiers who'd served in the U.S. First Division during World War I.
In 1932, New York's Independent City Owned Rapid Transit Railroad, later known as the IND, began service.
In 1939, Canada declared war on Germany.
In 1945, Vidkun Quisling was sentenced to death in Norway for collaborating with the Nazis (he was executed by firing squad in October 1945).
In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a black student.
In 1963, twenty black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.
In 1972, at the Munich Olympics, the U.S. Olympic basketball team lost to the Soviets, 51-50, in a gold-medal match marked by controversy because officials ordered the final three seconds of the game replayed, enabling the Soviets to win; the U.S. protested, to no avail. Frank Shorter of the United States won the men's marathon.
In 1979, four Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned for a 1954 attack on the U.S. House of Representatives and a 1950 attempt on the life of President Harry S. Truman were freed from prison after being granted clemency by President Jimmy Carter.
In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President and Mrs. Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.
Ten years ago: The Bush administration raised the nationwide terror alert to yellow, its second-highest level, closed nine U.S. embassies overseas and heightened security at federal buildings and landmarks in America on the eve of the Sept. 11 anniversary. Florida's first big test of its

new elections system turned into a nightmare as polling stations opened late and problems cropped up with new touchscreen voting machines. Switzerland became the 190th member of the United Nations.
Five years ago: Gen. David Petraeus, the top American commander in Iraq, told Congress he envisioned the withdrawal of roughly 30,000 U.S. troops by the summer of 2008, saying the surge in U.S. troops had met its military objectives “in large measure.” Academy Award-winning actress Jane Wyman, 90, died in Palm Springs, Calif.
One year ago: On the eve of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton paid tribute to the 40 passengers and crew who fought back against their hijackers aboard Flight 93 during a ceremony dedicating the first phase of a memorial in Shanksville, Pa. A pair of NASA probes — named Grail-A and Grail-B — rocketed toward the moon on the first mission dedicated to measuring lunar gravity and determining what's inside Earth's orbiting companion. Oscar- and Emmy-winning actor Cliff Robertson died in Stony Brook, N.Y., a day after turning 88.
Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Arnold Palmer is 83. Actor Philip Baker Hall is 81. Country singer Tommy Overstreet is 75. Actor Greg Kinnear is 73. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 72. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 70. Singer Jose Feliciano is 67. Actor Tom Ligon is 67. Actress Judy Geeson is 64. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 64. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 63. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 62. Actress Amy Irving is 59. Country singer Rosie Flores is 56. Actress Kate Burton is 55. Movie director Chris Columbus is 54. Actor Colin Firth is 52. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 52. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 49. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Randy Johnson is 49. Rock musician Robin Goodridge (Bush) is 47. Rock musician Stevie Nicks is 47. Rock musician Billy D. (Buckcherry) is 46. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 46. Actress Nina Repeta is 45. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 44. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 44. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 40. Actor Ryan Phillippe is 38. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 37. Rock musician Mike W. (My Chemical Romance) is 32. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel is 32. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 28. Singer Sanjaya Malakar (“American Idol”) is 23. Actress Hannah Hodson is 21.
Thought for Today: “The more one pleases everybody, the less one pleases profoundly.” — Stendhal, French author (1783-1842).

FROM THE BIBLE

Those who believed in God [should] be careful to devote themselves to good works. Titus 3:8. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

Saddle Up For St. Jude's

Helen and Don Simpson, Tabor

Don and I were fortunate to be invited to St. Jude's Research Hospital last spring, along with other volunteers that work so hard for them throughout the year. We were able to hear and see what they really do. A mother was there with her young daughter that would have died had it not been for St. Jude's. Also as young lady that originally came from Mexico spoke to us about having had cancer in the very early stage of her life. She went home thinking she was cured and the disease came back with a vengeance 5-6 years later. She is now cured and works for St. Jude's in Memphis. We knew that a lot was done there but this really opened our eyes. They tell us that at any time of day or night the lights can be on in the different laboratories as the research doctors work for more cures. Not

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