

Old Country Lawyer, May 29, 2011
Behind Every Dark Cloud

President Obama assured the folks in Joplin, Missouri, that "All Americans stand with you" to rebuild their town. Whether this applies to all members of Congress or all members of the TEA Party, remains to be seen. It does seem that Mother Nature has entered the 2012 Presidential campaign in support of re-electing President Obama.

The 2009 Federal Stimulus bill put tens of billions of dollars into circulation in the United States, building roads and bridges that are nearing completion in 2011, so that some construction workers are able to buy American-made automobiles. Those Chevy Silverados and Dodge Rams were built by Americans who were called back to work when GM and Chrysler were rescued from bankruptcy with investments from the taxpayers, also negotiated by President Obama and authorized by the Democratic-majority Congress in 2009. The 2009 Stimulus bill also made it possible for Ohio and other states to temporarily maintain State service workers on payroll and to continue to return State tax revenues to schools, villages, and townships to maintain those teachers and safety forces on payrolls.

To this point, the Rushkies and the Beckistas have continued to tell God-fearing Americans that anything President Obama does is wrong, apparently with the argument that, if it was a good thing, President Bush and the Republicans would have done it first. While it is difficult for some of us to understand how others can believe that President Bush's economic policies, which took the United States from near-full employment and a federal budget surplus in 2000 to the collapse of 2008, should be resumed so America can once again be Great, the Rushky argument has believers. Despite the obvious success of President Obama's economic policies, the TEA Party still shouts "Stimulus Bad!" and many Americans, not wanting to be associated with the Devil who created the Stimulus, do not respond, "The Stimulus works!" To the question of whether facts, results, and consequences win elections, or shouting wins elections, this writer offers the outcomes of the 2000 and 2004 votes.

So Mother Nature has intervened to support the continuation of President Obama's economic policies. Through May in 2011, historic floods have affected Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Historic tornadoes have affected Alabama, and Missouri and Mississippi again. And for Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas, hurricane season starts soon. Is there a pattern here, say, in comparison to announced Congressional positions on raising the federal debt ceiling and funding additional federal stimulus spending?

Democratic leadership in the United States Senate in May forced a vote on the Republican budget bill which proposes to turn Medicare into a private insurance industry subsidy. The Republican-majority House of Representatives had earlier VOLUNTARILY voted on this bill, and PASSED it, much to the elation of Democrats in Erie County, New York. The Senate majority should follow up quickly, while Republican strategists are in disarray.

Congressional Democrats should propose a massive funding of natural-disaster relief, which should be brought to a vote in both Senate and House BEFORE time runs out for an extension of the federal debt ceiling. The "Flood Emergency Damage and Severe Tornado Impact Mitigation Urgent Loans for the United States Act of 2011", FEDSTIMULUS-2011, should be brought to a vote as soon as Congress gets back from recess. (Couldn't resist putting "recess" and Congress" in the same sentence.) I look forward to hearing Senator Jeff

Sessions explain to the people of Alabama why the government of the United States should not borrow more money from China to employ construction workers to rebuild Tuscaloosa, and why folks who have million-dollar annual incomes should not resume paying the income taxes they used to pay in 2000 when times was good.

Or, if Congressional Democrats can't get the legislation in place immediately, perhaps once hurricane season starts, we will have the opportunity to hear Senator Saxby Chambliss try to explain these same philosophical positions to the people of Georgia.

In either event, I look forward to Rush and Beck explaining to their national audiences, whether those audiences are in towns destroyed by floods or tornadoes or other indicators of Mother Nature's displeasure, why the Federal Government is Evil and why the Democrats' insatiable taxation and uncontrolled spending for the purpose of rebuilding those towns, will ruin the future for America's children.

FEDSTIMULUS-2011 Good!

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