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# Federal Issues

Max S. Baucus

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SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID THIS IS GOING TO BE A BAD YEAR FOR DEMOCRATS. BUT LOOKING AT ALL THE GOOD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES WE HAVE THIS YEAR, I CAN"T BELIEVE THAT, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE ROSTER OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES. LET"S START AT THE TOP

TAKE RONALD REAGAN. . . . PLEASE: IF REAGAN WERE ELECTED PRESIDENT IT WOULD BE LIKE A FOUR YEAR RERUN OF <u>DEATH</u>

VALLEY DAYS. REAGAN IS A PRETTY GOOD ACTOR, BUT WE DIDN"T KNOW HOW GOOD UNTIL THIS YEAR. IT WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT REAGAN HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR AN EMMY AWARD FOR HIS TV SPPECHES. HE"S BEEN NOMINATED FOR "BEST ACTOR IN A CONTINUING ROLE IN A COMEDY SERIES."

AND THEN THERE'S GEORGE BUSH. IN THE LAST TEN YEARS HE'S BEEN A CONGRESSMAN, AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, AMBASSADOR TO CHINA AND HEAD OF THE CIA. THE GUY JUST CAN'T SEEM TO HOLD A JOB...

BESIDES GEORGE BUSH, THERE WAS ANOTHER GROUP OF REPUBLICANS WHO WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT: THERE WAS THAT MASTER OF CHARM, WIT AND DIPLOMACY, ROBERT DOLE.....AND HOWARD BAKER. THE BAKER"S DOZEN REFERRED TO THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES HE WON. REMEMBER JOHN CONNALLY? THE MAN WHO LEFT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN 1972 TO GO TO NIXON? EVER HEAR OF RATS SWIMMING TOWARD A SINKING SHIP? WELL, JOHN CONNALLY NEVER WAS ONE TO CRY OVER SPILLED MILK. FINALLY, THERE WAS PHILIP CRANE. BY THE NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS HE HAD, IT WAS APPROPRIATE WHEN HE MADE HIS CAMPAIGN MASCOT THE WHOOPING CRANE.

AFTER REVIEWING THAT LIST YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY
BEING A REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN IS LIKE BEING A FOOTBALL COACH.
YOU HAVE TO BE SMART ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE GAME, AND
STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK IT'S IMPORTANT.

REAGAN HAS TO FIND A VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FROM AMONG THAT CREW, SO HE RECENTLY LOOKED TOWARD GERALD FORD,...

THE KING OF PARDONS.....BUT AS THE TV HAS SO OFTEN SAID,

FORD HAS A BETTER IDEA..... NOW HE"S OUT MAKING SPPECHES FOR A STANDARD FEE OF \$17,000.... HE WAS HERE IN BUTTE RECENTLY TO SPEAK TO THE POOR AND THE DOWNTRODDEN, THE OPPRESSED STOCKHOLDERS OF THE MONTANA POWER COMPANY.

AT THE STATE LEVEL, WE HAVE THREE REPUBLICANS RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR. FIRST, THERE'S FLORENCE HAEGEN, THE FORMER GOP CHAIRWOMAN...HER CAMPAIGN IS A BIT LIKE A ZOO. SHE'S A LADY FROM BUFFALO...WHO RAN HERD OVER A BUNCH OF ELEPHANTS..WHO THIS YEAR IS GOING TO GET SKUNKED...OR IS A DEAD DUCK...OR A COOKED GOOSE.

AND AL BISHOP. HE TAKES HIS NAME SO SERIOUSLY THAT HE ALMOST DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE WHEN THE POPE SAID THE CLERGY COULDN"T RUN FOR OFFICE. BISHOP GOT HIS NOTORIETY THROUGH A FISH AND GAME SQUABBLE WITH GOVERNOR JUDGE.... OF COURSE, WE ALL KNOW HOW EASY IT IS TO PARLAY A FISH AND GAME CONTROVERSY INTO A SUCCESSFUL POLITICAL CAREER.....JUST ASK FRANK DUNKLE.

AND THEN THERE'S JACK RA-MEER-EZ, OR JACK RAM-IR-EZ, OR WHATEVER HE'S CALLING HIMSELF THESE DAYS. A RECENT GALLUP POLL ON TRUST WAS TAKEN...WAY, WAY DOWN AT THE BOTTOM, BELOW EVEN

MUGGERS, DOG THIEVES, AND USED CAR SALESMEN, WERE THREE CATEGORIES....

POLITICIANS, LAWYERS, AND REPUBLICANS..... WELL, JACK, THREE

STRIKES MEANS YOU"RE OUT...... RAMIREZ, THOUGH, TRULY

UNDERSTANDS THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE ECONOMY. HE HAS ALWAYS

ADHERED TO THE SOUND PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS AS ADVANCED BY THE

FATHER OF REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC THOUGHT, CALVIN COOLIDGE, WHO SAID...

"WHEN LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE ARE OUT OF WORK, IT CAN LEAD TO

UNEMPLOYMENT."

THREE REPUBLICANS ARE TRYING TO TAKE THE WESTERN CONGRESSIONAL SEAT OUT OF ITS TRADITIONALLY DEMOCRATIC HANDS....
FIRST, THERE"S JACK-MCDONALD....THE HAROLD STASSEN OF MONTANA POLITICS...HE"S RUN IN EVERY RACE EXCEPT THE BOSTON MARATHON...
WELL, JACK, MAYBE IN 1984.

AND THEN THERE'S SUZANNE MORRIS, WHO WHEN RECENTLY ACCUSED OF BEING A ONE ISSUE CANDIDATE SAID, "THAT'S NOT TRUE. IF YOU"LL JUST POINT OUT SOME OTHER ISSUES TO ME, I'M SURE I CAN RUN ON THEM."

AND FINALLY, KEN DUNHAM, THE RECENTLY FIRED REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. IT'S NO WONDER HE'S CAMPAIGNING ON THE THEME OF JOBS....HE NEEDS ONE.

NOW, IF THAT BRIEF REVIEW OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDDATES DOESN"T MAKE YOU FEEL PROUD TO BE ADDEMOCRAT AND WHET YOUR APPETITE FOR THE FALL ELECTION, NOTHING WILL

NOW TO GET ON TO OUR FINE LIST OF DEMOCRATIC HOPEFULS.....