



December 16, 2002
Donald B. Crawford, President

THE STAND **BIPARTISANSHIP**

Bipartisanship means in essence partisans getting along. Partisans normally are at odds, often polar worlds apart. But there are times when partisans can come together, agree and cooperate. That is working together for a common goal, to make something valuable to each partisan happen. It doesn't happen often, but when it happens, it is good for the partisans and politically, it is good for America.

The world of politics is strident, defensive, negative. There really is no dialogue or debate for our Congress is made up of partisans. Instead of debate, there is angry denunciation. Instead of dialogue, there is finger pointing, accusation and often personal attack. Differing ideas are painted as demonic. Partisans rant and rail, and pontificate regarding right and wrong. The other is always wrong, while the I, the ego, is always right. There is no middle ground, no compromise, no meeting of the minds on any aspects or details of the issues. Everything is black and white. My position is right, yours is wrong. End of the matter.

And so our politics goes, election after election. There is no debate for the liberal makes the conservative bad and wrong, and the conservative the same for the liberal. The American people have no opportunity to debate the issues or to have their opinions known for a liberal media will trumpet one point of view, and conservative media the other. There seem to be nothing but polarities, extreme positions with no middle ground. There is compromise however, political compromise in the ugly sense. One politician votes for another provided that the favor is returned. Politicians will turn an eye and compromise one position in order to get what they want for another. What a shame for America. That seems to be the very best bipartisanship that can come from Washington. We the people as always are the losers.

Interesting, isn't it, that 435 Congressmen and women and 100 Senators, men and women, control the destiny of almost 300 million Americans. 535 men and women make decisions for almost 300 million Americans. That hardly sounds like Democracy to me. But it is the best we can do and we live with it as we have for some 225 years for it seems to work. There is enough bipartisanship to make things work even though at the core, virtually everything is really partisan. There is an aggressive, negative and critical underbelly to politics which the average American never really sees. There is ill will, even hatred and no one seems to be able to change things. Peace, goodwill and love are foreign commodities on Capitol Hill. So is respect and dignity. Love among fellows is laughable.

The Stand – Bipartisanship

December 16, 2002

Page 2

There came a Babe 2000 years ago whose purpose was to bring peace on earth, and goodwill among all human kind. Wouldn't it be interesting if Tom Daschle would feel love for Trent Lott, John McCain for Hillary Clinton and Al Gore for George Bush. If these men and women truly loved each other, as the Babe would have them do, what a different political world it would be. Such a thing seems impossible, even ludicrous. Steel-minded politicians, hardened to the quick, would laugh to derision at such a thing. The issues could be debated reasonably, respectfully and honestly. At the end thereof, the partisans could embrace in loving bipartisanship. How good that would be for the debaters. How much better would it be for America. Love is really the answer, although no one on Capitol Hill will ever see that. Only the Babe can make that happen.

In a world full of hate, thank God for Christmas!