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September 10, 2007

CONGRESS

They, House and Senate, are doing one lousy job.

So says a recent Gallup poll which showed that the Democrat-led Congress job approval rating has sunk to:

18% !

18%! That is the lowest rating for Congress in 33 years. Not since 1974 has this approval, or rather disapproval rating, been so low.

This negative opinion of Congress is shared across the political spectrum. Democrats gave Congress a 21% job approval rating. Republicans, only 18%. And Independent Voters, 17%. Approximately 5 out of 6 American citizens disapprove of the legislative work and actions of this infamous Congress. The poll reflects an ever growing impatience with the new leadership of Congress, the Democrat leadership, which has been utterly unable to deliver on promises, including and especially an end to the War in Iraq.

Ironically, President Bush who has been vilified by the media has a job approval rating of some 32%, almost twice as positive as the approval rating for Congress. The poll indicated that voters gave Mr. Bush high marks on dealing with terrorism but low scores on foreign affairs and the War in Iraq.

Of course, Democrats blamed Republicans and Republicans blamed Democrats for the inactivity and inertia of Congress. House Minority Leader John A. Boehner, Republican from Ohio, said he was not surprised by the low poll numbers because Democrats lack luster performance has made Americans more cynical than ever about their government. Said Mr. Boehner:

"The American people want solutions, not gridlock. Instead of going it alone like they have thus far, it's my hope (he said) that Democratic leaders will reach out to Republicans on key issues like Iraq, tax relief and spending in September".

It is most interesting indeed that Democrats have become so critical of their own party members. The party gained considerable ground in the November 2006 elections and the party faithful and high hopes for the legislative agenda and the large promises of those elected. Little of substance has happened. And, unless there is a major breakthrough in gridlock, the legislative impasse will undoubtedly continue. Said Brendan Daley spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi :

"We are understand their (the voters) frustration but we are moving forward." Daley does not bother to say how they intend to move forward which of course only adds to the frustration of the American voter.

An interesting comment from one voter suggested that America would be far better off if there were an independent President, an independent members of Congress, truly elected by the people and without party affiliation. Sooner or later, it may actually come to that. Sooner or later, the American voters may in fact rise up and find a way to do away with both Republicans and Democrats, and truly elect independent, meaningful and different men and women who would truly represent the people. Americans are deeply sick and tire of politics as usual, the aggressive, warlike approach of politicians and parties, the lack of civility and respect and the ultimate harm the delay and compromise in action which effects America so deeply. There are critical elections in November 2007, and many more critical elections in November 2008. It is surely time, well past time for we the people to rise up and do something about this incredibly serious problem which threatens irreparable harm to our country. Only an act of citizenry can solve this problem. Maybe this strong sense of disapproval will finally get things done. Congress must change before we can change America for the better!