

TABOO OPINIONS #80

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12-23-05 IRAQ, SPYING, and THE CONUNDRUM

I note with amusement that the Dec. 15 [I opined would be fraudulent] legislature election in Iraq, so praised and bragged about by the Bush administration and by the media, with a turnout of an estimated 12 million of the voters (we were shown the usual two seconds of long lines of people waiting patiently, we are supposed to assume, to vote), has suffered some shrinkage. A couple days after the election the vote estimate had changed to about 10.5 million.

There will no doubt be more contraction when the 'final' results are released. If they are released, and if they are reported in the American media in any detail.

But today the losers, the Sunnis and the secular Shiites, declared that the election was a fraud, that election cheating was rampant, and they want a new election, with multitudes of foreign observers to make sure it is a fair election.

The winning, majority Shiites pooh-pooh the claims.

But the ground is being prepared for a civil war.

And apparently the Bush administration is going along with this 'flawed' election, since it is loudly scheduling a withdrawal of some thousands of U.S. forces which were scheduled out months ago after the election. Funny how old news becomes new to serve the president.

Sec. Of Defense Donald Rumsfeld made a surprise visit to Iraq, too, and announced the pre-arranged force reductions. And tactics are being changed, we are told: the American forces will stay in their fortified bases and only come to the aid and rescue of the Iraq security forces if the Iraqis get into serious trouble.

I'm sure that news is welcomed by the insurgents who will further refine and multiply their hit-and-run tactics. This will be a great time to be an Iraqi soldier or policeman.

We'll see how long this 'adjustment' lasts.

Note that Rumsfeld also made a surprise visit to the military

dictator of Pakistan who was also not told in advance---or until the last possible moment---due to 'security' concerns.

Yes, Virginia, there is no Santa Claus and no important U.S. government official dares to make an announced visit to any country in the Middle East, for fear of ground-to-air missile attack and/or motorcade/convoy ambush from the airport/base.

But onward to the warrantless spying the Bushies have been doing on an unknown number of American citizens. The real reason Democrats, some Republicans and the media are making such a fuss is that without some constitutional and judicial restraints on the government's spying on its citizens, they're afraid Bush will spy on THEM! Or has been spying on them! And that Bush will discover some or most of their secrets and crimes and will be in position to blackmail them.

Bush's reason for his recent secret, unrestrained and unrestricted spying on American citizens is the ancient THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS excuse. Power (with the means) always uses it as an excuse. Most criminals (also being psychopaths) use it.

The slippery slope of this current uproar is that "Terrorists" and "War on Terror" is so non-specific. Anyone who communicates a word of criticism of our government can easily be classed as "a Terrorist sympathizer" or one who is "aiding and abetting Terror" ... or 'the Terrorists.'

We all qualify.

And this vague "Terror" excuse may be the thin entering wedge of a new American Fascism wearing a Loyal-Christian-Conservative mask.

Bush may be on the way to trying for a "constitutional" dictatorship in a self-created National Emergency which would permit him to rule under declared martial law by means of 'Executive Orders.'

Yes, yes, this is probably paranoid...but I'm keeping it in mind and hugging it to my breast. Imagine being alive and aware during the climactic final surge of the American civilization/Empire!...and the first slide into American Caesars!

The conundrum...is an economic phenomenon which has puzzled and baffled Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and many others. It is that Treasury interest rates

refuse to go up no matter how much the Fed raises the discount rate-
-what banks are allowed to charge other banks for interbank loans.

Instead, now, the 2-3-5 year notes' rates are higher than the 10-
year rate!

This is called inversion of the yield curve and it has always in
the past occurred before the onset of a recession.

But of course, the Wall Street crowd say this time it doesn't
count. This time it's different.

I am now more than usual a devout follower of the financial
news channels, as well as the bearish internet sites. There is
supposed to be a traditional 'Santa Claus' rally in the stock markets,
and a rally in early January which will indicate how the rest of the
year will go. EVERYBODY will be watching!

END TABOO OPINIONS #80