

# No Vision for America

by Hilmar von Campe

The Democratic Convention in Los Angeles had the purpose of rallying the party faithful behind Al Gore, who was portrayed as a leader who is "his own man" and not morally and politically an appendix of Bill Clinton. There was a major attempt to remove the moral stigma of the president's behavior from Gore by showing him as a family man who cannot be blamed for Clinton's "mistake"-the affair with Monica Lewinsky. The selection of Sen. Joseph Lieberman by Gore was part of that effort.

I do not doubt that both Gore and Lieberman are truly committed to their own families, who, in turn, love them. But both are leading members of the abortion party, as I call the Democrats. The head of the Clinton/Gore administration has repeatedly vetoed the attempts of a majority of Congress to ban at least partial-birth abortion. I believe that the Democratic Party establishment has turned its back on truth and has made lying a normal part of the political process. To consider the Lewinsky affair, for instance, a one-time "mistake" unrelated to the vice president is not just naive, it is dishonest. It was, instead, one expression among many of a corruption of character that has emanated from the White House and pervaded America, confusing Americans about what is right and what is wrong. Al Gore has been at the center of that corruption for nearly eight years.

It was rather strange, to put it mildly, to hear the vice president in his acceptance speech say that he wanted to beef up the armed forces to keep them the strongest in the world, for he is the number-two man of an administration that has devastated their morality, reduced their numbers, and endangered their combat readiness. Just as astounding was his announced intention to push for campaign- finance reform, after helping lead an administration entangled in the as-yet- unresolved Buddhist temple, Chinagate, and White House telephone and e-mail scandals.

The rest of Gore's speech consisted mostly of the typical election bribery: promises of benefits from Big Daddy to countless sections of society in return for votes-benefits I cannot find to be authorized by any provision of the Constitution. There was no hint in the whole speech that Gore was aware of a world surrounding

America which he, should he be elected, would be expected to lead. No vision for the role and destiny of Americans and of America. Just bribery.

As for Lieberman, NBC's Tim Russert asked him on August 13 what he considered to be the most important issue in America today, and the veep nominee-obviously unaware of any moral crisis in the country or any of the deadly threats to the nation from outside-replied, "To keep the economy going." Painting the cabin while the ship goes down! When asked, "Did Clinton lie under oath?" he answered, "I am not in a position to make that legal judgment." But everybody, including the courts, knows Clinton did lie.

Earlier the same day, on the Fox Sunday morning show, Lieberman referred to the Lewinsky affair as a mistake that is now part of the past. Much has been made of his speech on the floor of the Senate in which he described the president's behavior as immoral and damaging to the nation and especially to the education of children. But since he then went on to vote against convicting Clinton, one has to conclude that his actions do not relate to his rhetoric. I think his ethics are wishy-washy and he adjusts his convictions to what he thinks is expected of him. He is a weak opportunist. As somebody who has lived through 12 years of Nazi rule, recognized the fallacy and idiocy of Aryan arrogance and superiority, and made reconciliation and friendship with Jews a priority in his life, I find the fuss that is being made over the possibility that a Jew may be elected vice president astounding. What is so special about it? Looking at the non-Jews who got into high office here and around the world and at the mess they produced, I conclude that we might be much better off if more God-fearing Jews had been elected. They tend to be highly intelligent, for one thing. And has America, founded as a Christian country, overlooked the fact that Jesus was a Jew? Would he have been unfit to be elected president in America in the last 200 years at the same time he was being adored in the churches? What about Moses or King David?

A final question: Can the Democratic Party be transformed into a party of truth? The answer is: Yes, of course it can. Change on an enormous scale is the most urgent need of the hour. It- not economic growth-is the most burning issue in America and in the world. But it must be moral change that will result in political, social, and economic change-and not merely change but progress in unknown dimensions.

The fact that men can change is the key for this century. Everybody, whether black, white or yellow, Jew or Christian, Democrat or Republican can and must

change. If I could change and become a new person, anybody can. If Al Gore made the absolute truth of God his yardstick he might risk not being elected. Or he just might be elected because of that choice. That is the crux of the matter.

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