

Course Correction Needed for Democrats in the 2014 Mid-Terms

By Clarence B. Jones



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The resignation of Kathleen Sibelius as secretary Health and Human Services and the announced enrollment of 7.5 million of applicants under the new Affordable Care Act provide the Democratic Party, and the White House, with the opportunity to rethink their strategic political strategy for the 2014 mid-term elections.

A recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll reports that 70 percent of Republicans indicate they would most likely support candidates who oppose the Affordable Care Act; and, 77 percent of Democrats indicated they would most likely support candidates who pledged to defend the Act against efforts to repeal. This is not surprising. Our advice is: Don't let the Republican Party and its allied Super PACs define and limit the congressional districts' playing field to only the issue of supporting or opposing candidates who voted against or in support of "Obamacare."

We believe the Democratic Party political strategy for the mid-terms elections should be based on national issues, such as: minimum wage, equal pay for women, income inequality, immigration reform, and protection of the right to vote. Without the benefit of any on the ground polling data from the various congressional districts, our "30,000 feet" advice is that these issues should constitute the "game plan" for the Democratic Party's offense playbook for the House and Senatorial seats contested this November.

We just experienced a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This, indeed, was an important milestone for the Civil Rights Movement and our entire nation during the presidency of President Johnson. More relevant, however, to the forthcoming Congressional elections than the Affordable Care Act or the 1964 Civil Rights Act is this August's 50th Anniversary of the Voter Registration Drive of the summer of 1964 to register unregistered negro voters in the state of Mississippi.

During the summer of 1964 more than 1,000 students from the Midwest and Northeast, mostly white, assembled in a pilgrimage to Mississippi under the leadership of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee's campaign to register eligible black voters. The Ku Klux Klan in Philadelphia, Miss., murdered three of those summer student volunteers, two white and Jewish, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman and one black, James Chaney.

The summer 1964 voter registration campaign and the killing of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner ignited the nation's conscience and outrage. This created the moral and political groundswell in support of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The enactment of the Voting Rights Act may be the most significant political piece of Civil Rights legislation since the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to our Constitution.

Last year's decision by the United States Supreme Court in *Shelby County vs. Holder* declared Section 4 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. Section 4 included a formula that determined which states, based on past racial discrimination, must receive prior approval from the Justice Department, before changing their voting laws. The regrettable repeal of Section 4 opened the floodgates for the enactment by various state legislatures of efforts to limit or suppress the rights and opportunities to vote in their respective states.

The Democratic Party mid-term election response to Chief Justice Roberts' decision should not be to try to match dollar for dollar Republican Super PAC money, but instead to engage in a massive grassroots voter turnout. The best way to commemorate the legacy of the summer of 1964 and the memories of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner is to engage in such grassroots campaign to get out the vote for the mid-term elections.

At a minimum, the goal of the Democratic Party strategy in the mid-terms, especially in African-American communities (notwithstanding certain formidable Republican gerrymandered districts), should be to reach the same level or greater, in voter turnout, than that which occurred in the presidential election of 2012. When we have written in earlier blogs that sometimes the exercise of political power requires "taking names and kicking butts" this is what the Democratic Party must NOW do in the mid-terms.

To do less would dishonor the efforts and legacy of those extraordinary young people who, in August of 1964, put their lives on the line during their heroic efforts to register blacks to vote in the state of Mississippi. This is the most effective political answer to the Roberts Court's decision overturning section 4 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and to commemorating the Voting Rights legacy of the summer of 1964.

Finally, we remain concerned that the "Hillary Clinton waiting in the wings campaign for President in 2016" may have and adverse effect on the energy, funds and efforts needed to successfully implement the Democratic party mid-term election strategy recommended in this blog.

It's up to you!

VOTE MAY 6TH

Does Mom Have Life Insurance -or Does She Have Enough?

By Jeffrey Williams



Jeffrey A. Williams

Working moms: Group coverage isn't enough. While some working moms may have group life through their employer, they may not realize the benefits of having coverage that's portable. This is an excellent opportunity for moms to learn the differences between whole life and term. Women should view their group coverage as a good supplement to individual whole life insurance, which provides more coverage options to ensure the financial security of their family. Here are some reasons why moms can't rely solely on group life:

- o Amount of coverage is typically 1-2 times an annual salary. This is usually not sufficient coverage.
- o The company could choose to stop offering the benefit or change the plan. Hold, she is maintaining the household
- o If she loses her job or chooses to leave and doesn't have individual WL, she may have a harder time getting it in the future due to medical conditions

Stay-At Home Moms: Their time is money

Though a stay-at-home mom isn't bringing income into the household, she is maintaining the household with services that would cost money, if some one was hired to complete them. And Mom's time isn't cheap. The website salary.com estimates that the annual salary of a stay-at-home mom is roughly \$117,000 depending on the ages of the children. Where does this figure come from? If you take the hours Mom spend doing the laundry, cleaning the house, watching children, preparing meals, etc and multiply them by the hourly cost for a professional service to complete these task, you'll arrive at Mom's "salary." The surviving caretaker would either have to cut work hours or pay someone to complete these responsibilities. Either way, the family would have less money available for the essentials.

Moms' trusted advisor

Royal Neighbors offers affordable whole life insurance for every mom's needs. Whether they are looking to preserve their family's lifestyle or preserve life style and replace income, moms are looking for the peace of mind that their family's financial future is secure. If you're a mom, let us use our helpful tools to walk you thru assessing your needs. Let us help you understand how to get the coverage you need at a premium you can afford. Also let us offer you coverage for your children.

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Letter From Birmingham Jail

During the April 1963 campaign against racial segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Martin Luther King was incarcerated. From a cell he penned an open letter to his critics—members of the clergy. The widely published letter served as a key point of reference in the Civil Rights Movement of that day. In it, King defended nonviolent resistance to unjust laws, asserted that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," and asked whether we will become "extremists" for hate or for love.

More than 50 years later, does this document hold relevance for us today? Join an engaging discussion on activism and social change in twenty-first century America led by:

Rev. Reggie Weaver, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC

Dr. Love Crossing, Director, Human Relations Department, City of Greensboro, NC

Dr. Wayne Moore, Professor, School of Social Work, NCA&TSU and UNCG, Greensboro, NC

Admission Fee: Adults: \$6.00 Students: \$4.00 Museum Members: Free (Free with purchased guided tour ticket)

Re-Set Your Mind

By John Raye

[continued from page 11]

- (3) Practice prayer and daily meditation. Prayer changes things. Meditation becomes things. Pray with passion, promise and purpose. Pray without ceasing. Pray to a higher power.
- (4) Wake up your imagination—visualize, then energize your imagination, with dreams, visions and pictures of what you really want in your life. See where you are going before you get there. Conceive and believe before you achieve! Act like it's already yours!
- (5) Just think! First the thought—then the thing. Repeat often: "Every day, in every way, I am getting better and better". Nobody gets better and better or worse and worse at the same time. The mind can only entertain one thought at a time, so choose carefully what you think about: choose to re-set your mind! Then, with that rhythm in your spirit... rock steady!

--John Raye, a life-health-wealth and wellness coach, is an 8-year cancer champion. He lives in Kernersville, NC with Miss Rosie.rayeandrosie@aol.com (336) 782-8383