

George Bush's top-ten invasion list

George Bush needs help. With his campaign in a slump, he is counting on the GOP convention next month to bring his poll numbers up enough to carry him into November. And while it may work (conventions have a way of turning bright, insightful people into mindless, political zombies), it may not be enough. People want to see a change in the economy.

Unfortunately, any short-term change in the economy will most likely be in the downward direction, leaving Bush with only one other option: Invasion.

Following, then, is our very own, expertly conceived list of the top-ten most likely places and reasons for an election-saving, George Bush invasion:

10 - **Yugoslavia:** One place where the U.S. military might actually be welcomed. Problem is, Serbians shoot back.

9 - **Mexico and Canada:** Eliminate the need for a free-trade agreement, ensure jobs remain on U.S. controlled territory.

8 - **Japan:** Kidnap the Prime Minister, bring him to America and make him puke on prime-time television. A sure-fire way to demonstrate the President's "America First" trade policies.

7 - **California:** Eradicate the "cultural elite." Bring family values back to television. Try Murphy Brown for crimes against humanity.

6 - **The Moon:** Bring back Jerry Brown and ensure he speaks at Democratic rallies. Prove to Dan that the moon really isn't made of cheese.

5 - **Britain:** Restore family values to monarchy. Force members of the House of Commons to raise their hands before speaking.

4 - **Spain:** Native Americans return the favor on the 500th anniversary of the beginning of Spain's conquest of the Americas.

3 - **France:** United States declares EuroDisney to be sovereign state, comes to its defense against invading French terrorist-farmers.

2 - **Idaho:** Troops will remain until official spelling of "potato" is changed to "potatoo." Farmers who refuse are labeled as "cultural elite" and executed.

And the number one target for an election-saving, George Bush invasion is:

1 - **Capitol Hill:** "Little, carping liberals" must be removed if Congress is to get on with the job of obeying the president.

Kidnap the (Japanese) Prime Minister, bring him to America and make him puke on prime-time television.



COMMENTARY

Persistent Brown makes waves

By Paul Prenskey

Jerry Brown is alive and well, as is the movement he has evoked. We come out of the Democratic National Convention focused, unified and with some clear directions to proceed into the presidential campaign season and beyond.

Of the 613 delegates pledged to Brown as of the opening day of the convention, more than 97 percent remained loyal on the final roll-call; an extraordinary outcome considering the "loser" image foisted on the entire country by virtually the entire media establishment.

It wasn't easy. Ron Brown (Mr. Resentment personified), refused to give Jerry his due — a prime-time speaker's position on Tuesday night. He was told to (literally) stand in line and to speak for 10 minutes on his own behalf, at about 6:30 p.m. EST.

In the event, and due to many efforts by us and even some Clinton people, he spoke for one-half hour, beginning just before 8 p.m. EST. He didn't mention Clinton by name once, and he didn't speak against him either. He focused on the necessity for political reform and the need for democrats to win across-the-board in November.

He was well received, and, as a consequence of his and his staff's insistence on discipline and clarity, virtually all the Brown delegates settled in to play the political game by the rules, albeit in an unruly manner. We were quiet when the speakers spoke (with the exception of the aforementioned Ron Brown).

In the Oregon delegation, bridges were made and the mutual respect prevailed. Our caucus committed itself to working full-tilt for the statewide Democratic ticket and will offer space for Clinton advocates to make the case for the national ticket. Actually, I thought the also-rans were far and away the more principled and eloquent speakers than the now-official candidates.

Mario Cuomo, Paul Tsongas, Jerry Brown, Barbara Jordan, Ann Richards and in fact, our own Gov. Barbara Roberts, all spoke honestly and from the heart. Our "speak-the-truth-to-

power" theme must be catching.

What went on outside the official proceedings was at least as significant as what transpired inside Madison Square Garden. More than 1,000 "Brown for President" campaign volunteers were in town with our own headquarters near the Garden and our own hospitality suite. Although we were allotted very few non-delegate passes the first night, several dozen of us eventually participated on the subsequent nights.

We developed and distributed an alternate platform, held rallies and demonstrations, staffed a soup kitchen for the homeless, and held, on Thursday, our day-long convention to forge an ongoing movement to take back America through political and economic reforms. No one was discouraged. Enthusiasm and solid planning were the order for the day. A positive spirit prevailed and we all went home more resolved than ever about the viability and vitality of our causes, which range across the political and spiritual-political spectrum. Space does not allow me to share many particulars here, but I'll be at Saturday Market this week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to offer materials and information to those interested.

Because my assignment was for the *Emerald*, the one question I asked of Jerry Brown was pertinent to college students' concerns. I asked Jerry what he had to say to college students today. His answer was succinct and right on the money — literally. He said, "Tell the college students that their tuition should be tax deductible."

That sounds good to me, and it's way out ahead of the pack compared with what the national ticket is offering (repayable credits). This is something you can organize around locally, and it would help to offset the increases that are inevitable under Measure 5. The answer wasn't bad for a sound-bite-sized thought.

To other reporters' questions 12 hours after Clinton was nominated, Brown had more

good answers. When asked about creating a third party, Brown said, "I hope this party will keep moving to higher ground and seize it and present to this country a credible challenge to economic injustice."

When asked what Bill Clinton would have to do to get his endorsement, Brown said, "The power and the money, the same old crowd, has a hammer-hold now. The Democratic Party is the only one who can break this power."

Specifically, he issued a 10-point program for political reform, which can be seen as a prerequisite to the economic reform we need. This is called the "humility agenda," and is available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Lane County Oregon for Brown, C/O Paul Prenskey, 2533 Kincaid St., Eugene, Ore., 97405.

When asked what he would have "his" people do in November, Brown said his supporters are independent people and will vote their own consciences. And we will. The more of our positions the party adopts, the more enthusiastically we can campaign for the national ticket. In any case, the Oregon Brown Caucus, and the national Brown campaign are both committed to doing all we can in a congressional and statewide race. The Democrats have gotta win. George Bush has gotta go. This takes precedence over any points of conflict we have with the mainstream party.

It may appear to be contradictory, but we have to face facts. Children are dying. People are starving. Women's rights are threatened. Economic vitality is a will-o-the-wisp. Four more years of Bush, et. al., will only serve to nail the final coffin-nails into what was once seriously referred to as the American dream.

Taking back America is more than a concept, it is a necessity if we are to have a decent future at all.

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