

Swapping Presidents

by
Raymond E. Muth

Valley News Dispatch 9/27/98 - Community Columnist

Nobody asked me but I woke up with an idea where the entire world wins. It will spare everyone the absurd ongoing saga of President Clinton's catch-22 crisis that has paralyzed this nation. It will likely rejuvenate the Russian economy. And finally, it will bring peace and stability to the world.

This solution will please liberals and conservatives alike although it involves no impeachment, resignation, censure or fine. It will even move the needle of our moral compass in the right direction without casting stones.

My idea is to trade Bill Clinton and our top ten TV evangelists to Russia for Boris Yeltsin and 10 peasant prisoners of religious persecution for a period of two years. President Clinton runs Russia and President Yeltsin runs the US. Everyone comes home after two years which would have finished Clinton's original term. All becomes right in the world. Here's why:

Clinton supporters believe the President has been responsible for our good economic fortune. Anxious to escape public scrutiny of his personal life, Russia provides the President with the perfect out to save face. Russia is an economic basketcase on the verge of collapse. Since the Russians haven't mastered capitalism, Clinton can finally show his savvy economic prowess, unplugged. Who better to lead Russia than the man credited with booming the world's largest economy.

Conversely, Clinton detractors believe Treasury Secretary Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan are solely responsible for our good economic fortune. President Yeltsin is in poor health and needs the best medical care in the world. He'll get just that in the US. Thus President Yeltsin runs our country while convalescing. If Clinton detractors are correct, anyone can direct this economy with his/her eyes closed. Who better than Boris Yeltsin.

The TV evangelists go to Russia to council President Clinton. But as President Clinton spurs the economy forward, they are champing at the bit to show the masses of the evil empire that they alone have captured the truth. They use their vast resources to construct theme parks, gold cathedrals and television studios. While hawking their trinkets on Russian television, viewers marvel at their enterprising methods. The evangelists unconsciously teach Russians about capitalism, using creative sales techniques unseen by any business in their country. They cleverly demonstrate how to take something of considerable material value from a customer, while returning something of lesser material value but always making the customer feel euphoric in the process. Impressed, Russians become shrewd marketers.

Conversely, the peasant prisoners come to the United States to pray for President Yeltsin. But as the President recuperates, they are soon champing at the bit to go to work in soup kitchens and homeless shelters. While voluntarily scrubbing pots and pans, they help Americans recognize that morality without the actions of spirituality is nothing more than self-righteousness. Although they do not speak English, their example shows the true way of faith, that of transformation and the freedom of being committed to moral absolutes. Impressed, Americans begin quietly volunteering.

President Clinton becomes renewed, no longer facing questions about affairs. After he champions the Russian economy by bringing Microsoft headquarters to Moscow with tax incentives, he turns his attention to nuclear weapons. The North Koreans, Iranians and Iraqis are soon stymied in their pursuit of human destruction. Without Russian support and technology, they decide to plant crops.

President Yeltsin becomes reinvigorated, no longer facing questions about his health. After he masters the United States economy by leaving it alone, he turns his attention to the United Nations by bringing it to Hollywood. Since the world is now at global peace, he convinces UN General Secretary Kofi Anan that his diplomatic skills are needed on Star Trek's Deep Space Nine. The Cardassians and the Bajoran are at war once again. The General Secretary likes the idea and dissolves the UN.

President Clinton gets to leave his legacy as the President who sacrificed his career to unwittingly ensure that economic freedom would flourish throughout the world. President Yeltsin gets to leave his legacy as the Russian President who sacrificed his career to unwittingly disengage Americans from the errors of moral relativism. As for me, I get to go back to sleep.



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