

# ARE YOU PART OF THE PROBLEM OR THE SOLUTION? by Jim Bice

A mere ten months ago the mainstream media elected a new president by failing to do their job. They convinced the people of this country to vote for a man who had the gift of public speaking but with little or no real substance to qualify as the leader of the greatest country in the history of mankind.

Much of the reporting was centered on his personal charisma without regard for his past associations or lack of significant accomplishments. There was virtually no investigation of his background, voting record or activities that would give the voters insight into how he might be expected to lead the nation. The message, both from the Obama campaign and the mainstream media, was a superficial cry of "Hope and Change" with little actual discussion of specifically what type of hope and change we could expect or how it was to be accomplished. It was, perhaps, the most blatant example of media misrepresentation in history.

And the people were fooled!

Certainly, there are still those who believe in the message, and of course those who are agenda driven regardless of what the facts may indicate. But more and more, people are becoming aware of what is actually happening in our government and how it will directly, and adversely affect them and their families.

Aside from the partisan rhetoric of how George Bush was the great Satan that created all of America's problems from the sinking of the Titanic to the current economic recession, there has, indeed, been

change under the current administration. This is not to say it is totally due to our current president. It is due largely to the fact that the people chose to give nearly absolute power to one political party.

Our system of government was designed to operate by checks and balances. It was designed to be necessarily adversarial so the people would be adequately represented by a wide spectrum of ideas and views. Open debate and compromise were the staples that built this country, with the people themselves being the ultimate check against abuse of political power. Yet, with the one party system we have have recently created, largely through the malfeasance of the mainstream media, it has fallen to the people to check our out-of-control so called "representatives" and bring some common sense to governance.

The people started to make their displeasure known on April 15 (Tax Day) by holding "Tea Parties" all across the nation. They were symbolically protesting the "change" they were seeing take place in our country.

Aside from the media lies and omissions and the rhetoric of the elitist politicians, the people realized that the "change" actually consisted of more unemployment, more national debt, more taxes, more government dependency, more regulation, more wasteful spending, more corruption in high places, more control and erosion of individual rights, the appointment of unelected, unanswerable and unvetted "Czars" to positions of power and overall, more govern-

ment.

In spite of polling data that indicated the people overwhelmingly opposed the bail-out of insurance giant AIG, the banking industry and the auto makers, the arrogant elitists in Washington, both under the Bush Administration and under the Obama Administration, proceeded anyway. Then came the massive \$787 billion "stimulus package" that was resoundingly opposed by the people. That was followed closely by the "Cap and Tax" legislation that narrowly passed in the House of Representatives and now sits waiting in the Senate. Nobody wants it except the politicians and special interests that stand to make billions of dollars at OUR expense. And now the great debate is over health care, in which the actual bill, HB 3200, exposes the lies and half truths being espoused by the mainstream media, special interest groups and the "leadership" in Washington. This is yet another effort to gain control of another segment of our economy while adding to the debt burden, creating additional government dependency and denying choices to the people. Waiting in the wings are at least three new bills granting amnesty to illegal aliens, more restrictive firearm legislation, more environmental regulation and more government take-overs and circumvention of our culture and our individual rights.

The list of government failure, arrogance, waste and pandering to special interests is nearly endless. This is not a recent occurrence but rather the culmination of many years of the people being led

astray and deceived by the mainstream media and the politicians. And now the people have finally had enough!

On Saturday, September 12 there will be another Tea Party at the Bandon Baking Company on 2nd Street in old town Bandon starting at 9:00 AM. Following the Tea Party will be a potluck barbecue beginning at 1:00 in the Bandon City Park on 11th Street. There is a Skateboard Park, Dog Park and a playground in the same area, so bring the family, a Frisbee, and your favorite dish and join the celebration with other Oregon Patriots.

This event is not about Republicans, Democrats, Liberals, Conservatives or any other social or political designation – all are welcome! It is about AMERICANS who are fed up with a government out of control...a government that has ceased to be responsive to the people or loyal to the Constitution.

These gatherings are taking place all across the country and are a manifestation of the American right to freely and peacefully assemble and petition our government for the redress of grievances as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Many in the mainstream media and Washington D.C. have described these events as riots and called the participants Nazis, racists, right wing terrorists and worse. They have vilified those of us who choose to engage in the

most fundamental of our freedoms, the right to free speech. According to them, free speech only applies if you agree with them.

The mainstream media, of course, has chosen to not even acknowledge or cover many of these Tea Parties. Yet they trampled over each other to cover the "hate Bush" events, the militant gay pride parades, the anti war demonstrations and a multitude of other special interest causes. But when the ordinary folks, the people who work for a living, who pay taxes, who believe in God and the Constitution, who are tired of the erosion of their rights and finances and government intrusion want to express themselves, the mainstream media either ignore the events or criticize those who would dare to speak out. Perhaps that's why much of the mainstream media is in deep financial crisis today.

The question for those of you reading this...will you attend the Tea Party? Will you invite your friends, family and co-workers? Will you take part in the solution or just complain and allow the problem to continue to fester until The United States Of America, as we know it, ceases to exist? To whom will you complain when the government elitists and the mainstream media completely erode your rights, your finances, your morality and your very freedoms until you are nothing more than a ward of the state?

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