

In the November 9th Altamont Enterprise there appeared an article entitled “McNulty part of Dems’ power play”, in which Congressman McNulty is quoted as saying: “This election was a referendum on the Iraq war and the Bush domestic policy, which the President has lost badly.” It’s hard to tell from the way that was worded whether he thinks the war or domestic policy has been lost badly but I am here to provide an opposing view to both.

You see, I don’t listen to the politicians who will say whatever the mainstream press wants to hear just so they can get free coverage. If you listened to mainstream press reports you probably did vote against Republicans because of what you were led to believe about the war and domestic policy (what else is there really?). But I believe that the Democrats’ modest gains lay primarily in their expertise in the mechanics of the political war where all is fair. They had the free time (and George Soros’s money) to wage a relentlessly negative campaign while the Republicans had to focus on managing the country’s affairs. In races where principles mattered more than scandal, the Democrats who won stood on a platform of Conservative policies. Many of the Republicans who lost were considered more Liberal.

The second year elections of two term Presidents usually result in greater losses than what President Bush and the Republicans have suffered this time. The very fact that Democrats didn’t even acquire the average sixth year gains of previous out-of-power parties actually reflects a loss in voter confidence of their Liberal agenda.

Take for example the outing of Republican Congressman Mark Foley, a scandal which was a deciding factor in Republicans losing the House. Liberal politicians who usually claim to advocate tolerance and acceptance of Mark Foley’s gay behavior used their knowledge that a majority of voters do not approve of it to help win the election. But what did they win? Do gay and gay sympathizing voters understand that the Democratic victories this past November actually reflect a loss for gay rights? Do they see the hypocrisy and repression involved? The lesson is that if you are gay, you better stay in line when it comes to every other issue.

Look at incumbent NY Congressman John Sweeney’s loss. It took an October surprise violation of Mr. and Mrs. Sweeney’s privacy rights to draw attention away from the political and ideological debate. His Democratic challenger, Kirsten Gillibrand, would likely have lost if the campaign had continued to focus on typical Liberal sound bite issues like “the economy stupid” or the “no blood for oil” war in Iraq. Even if the Gillibrand camp had nothing to do with the personal attack, she owes her victory to those who were behind it. What will she do when they demand her submissiveness to their position on real issues?

Think voters want a change in domestic policy? Think they want to turn around the 4.1 percent economic growth that has cut the deficit in half? Maybe they don’t like the economy adding jobs for 37 months straight leading us to the verge of full employment. Wages are up 4 percent from last fall. Real after-tax income is up 15 percent since 2001 as well. Productivity is growing by 2.5 percent, well ahead of the average for the last 30 years. Maybe our retirees don’t really appreciate the growth in their pensions and 401(k) funds with the Dow hitting 12,000 for the first time in history. Maybe seniors don’t like the Prescription Drug Program. Or maybe the average voter just didn’t hear the good news for some reason.

“A referendum on the war”? In no other race did the Liberal leadership of the Democratic Party focus more attention to the Iraq war than in the Senate campaign of hawkish Democrat Joe Lieberman and that is where they suffered their most humiliating loss. They have such Gestapo like control over the election process that they easily expelled incumbent Senator Lieberman from the Democratic ticket and put a peacenik in his place. They did it because he dared to disagree with Party leaders over the Iraq war. Senator Lieberman’s landslide victory as an Independent is a clear signal that even in Connecticut, Conservative issues like the war in Iraq are more important than party politics. It was also a signal that Fascist like tactics designed to suppress the democratic process will not be tolerated.

So small minded Liberal leaders can celebrate a temporary victory, a hollow one at that, but the 2006 election portends victory for Conservative issues in the long run.

DRC