

Accessible Government At Its Best...

9:01 PM PDT, March 22, 2009

Everyday I become more enamored [with the quality and availability of the information being provided to us from Washington](#). Because of the diversity and the richness of the media that we have in this country, I will never fear that I have missed out on something important. At almost any moment, I can easily review or replay a print release, an audio broadcast or a video event over the Internet, in its entirety, to review the facts and learn exactly what has happened.



For the past 60 days, we have been treated to the eloquence, the openness and the excitement of energy and youth that is occupying our White House, the likes of which have not been seen since the golden days of the Kennedy Era. The President and the First Lady continue to be accessible through the many media outlets available to them, not only showing us that they are thoughtful, caring and considerate human beings but that they are also aware of the problems that we face. Once again, President Obama amazed me this week when he spoke within the same

24-hour period to both America's Tonight Show audience about the economy and to [the people and leaders of the Islamic](#)

[Republic of Iran on the occasion of Nowruz](#), something that a lesser man could not have done. Clearly we have an extremely popular and dynamic President, one who seems to be taking advantage of all the communications capabilities that he has beyond his beloved Blackberry, to connect to the people of this Nation and the world.

Unfortunately, Washington has more than one face and there are hundreds of other voices that are being raised as well, primarily from within the Beltway, that appear to be conveying deliberately negative messages to all citizens for an assortment of personal reasons and hidden agendas:

- They have simply refused to listen to the new President
- They believe it is their job to oppose the Administration
- They are a part of the media business that works to distort the news for the creation of headlines and sound bites
- They have an extremely distorted sense of themselves

I have never seen such blatant disrespect and willed adversity among what are supposed to be adult, intelligent people, who claim to be in the public service. It's as if the President has just won the Heisman trophy and the Congress is now nothing but a collection of old alumni and Monday morning quarterbacks, which is beginning to define them as useless for all intents and purposes. Since the inauguration, I have yet to see any genuine bipartisan support on display in the Capitol. Instead, individuals on both sides are not ashamed to show off their ignorance to the ever-vigilant news media that will print anything for a headline. During some recent discussions about earmark guidelines, the House Majority Leader said flatly, *"I don't think the White House has the ability to tell us what to do."* Then he paused and quipped to the reporters present, *["I hope you all got that down."](#)* Yes, we did Congressman Hoyer, and I hope that the voters of Maryland made a note too. Perhaps they are already aware of the [Change Congress movement](#) that is well

underway in this country to address the influence of special interest funds on our elections. It is time for a new breed of politician to surface, where political emphasis does not mean *'acting in manipulative and devious ways'*.

Here's why there's a problem. When I asked several people if they had seen the President or heard him on the *Tonight Show*, they replied, "No, but I saw the clips on the news." What they saw had *already been filtered for them* by the news media. If you perform a Google Search of 'Obama on Tonight Show' you will find literally thousands of references to what people saw. Therefore, instead of letting others make up your mind for you, avoid the 30-second sound bites and the headlines. Go right to the source; make up your own mind!

Bob

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