

Seeing What You Want To See...

7:38 PM PST, February 27, 2009

With the ink barely dry on the President's mammoth stimulus package, the pundits were already predicting its failure as they assessed Obama's first month in office.

In the Post's [Obama's Supine Diplomacy](#), Charles Krauthammer only diminished himself in my eyes with his boyish taunts, which failed to distract me from what is truly going on. While Krauthammer's outstanding credentials are obvious, I don't believe that he is a visionary who has figured out the next four years of this new Administration in just 30 days. I initially questioned his objectivity but his tone today seems to have mellowed somewhat with his description of the President's historic address to Congress this past week in [The Obamaist Manifesto](#). He appears to have now become more the 'subtle' opposition. Intelligent debate will always be welcome, but the petty politics will not.

Krauthammer reminded me of [a corollary to my previous post about flying airplanes](#) that I learned one day while flying solo. After you create a flight plan, you are supposed to identify landmarks on your projected track on your flight map and cross-check and verify them against visual sightings out your window along your trip. It goes something like this; 'highway, *highway*; small pond, *small pond*; intersection, *intersection*; wooded area, *wooded area*'. Then after 25 minutes of flying, when I looked to find my destination airstrip, it is nowhere to be found! When I finally found a place to land, the people on the ground told me that theirs was not the field that I had targeted. That one was 10 miles east of where we were standing! But hadn't I found every landmark that I looked for along the way? Yes, I had... and that made me realize that *'sometimes you see only what you want to see.'*

So as long as the pundits and the media believe that their job is to polarize us rather than helping to find common ground that pulls us together, we could still fail at some things in spite of all our strengths. Thankfully, Barack Obama is an extremely intelligent man with decent, unselfish objectives. I believe that our young President also has a better sense than most of us of the unevenness of the playing field that he is facing every day. We certainly owe him our trust and he definitely needs our support. As Krauthammer noted, *let the debate begin...*