

IGNORE or IGNITE, INDICT or IMPROVE

by Baruch Cohon

Citizens like me are not rare, I am sure. Maybe those of us who remember the Great Depression and World War II are decreasing in number, but our relation to our country develops in some ways typical of a great number of Americans, perhaps a majority.

Lately I **ignore** the stacks of junk mail that we get, particularly the political propaganda from right or left. I find it disgusting. Looking at our government since the turn of the century, I see 15 years of failure from both major parties. No Democrats out there like Harry Truman who had the guts to drop the Bomb and end the war, saving an estimated 1 million American lives (including my own) and 3 million in Japan. No Republicans like Teddy Roosevelt who could establish American leadership through power and also make peace between warring foreign states. Of all the more recent administrations, the last two managed to push the United States dangerously close to **bankruptcy at home and defeat overseas**. Those are problems we can no longer ignore.

Talk about national mistakes, our major parties really made them. They nominated the wrong candidates, and then elected them. George W. Bush got elected with oil company backing and some questionable vote counting. He let his vice-president manipulate him, with the result that we sent young Americans to die in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, while cutting corporate taxes and military budgets, sending the country into massive debt, and still managing to hunt down one Hussein in Iraq – and paving the way to elect another Hussein president of the U.S. That one, the current occupant of the White House, is by origin legally illegitimate since his mother was a single white American hippie and his father was a married black African Muslim. By profession a glib con man and spokesman for the Left, he apologizes to our enemies and betrays our friends internationally, helps his cronies raise taxes to fund more and bigger Federal agencies, running the debt to some **18 trillion** – that's trillion – of the cheapest dollars ever. Even by their value in 1946 currency that would be around **\$900 billion** – not likely to be paid off in the foreseeable future.

What turned me off of presidential politics these years was my experience as a delegate for Senator McCain at the Republican convention in 2008. I never officially joined a political party, but a surprise phone call that year

invited me to be a delegate. I said I liked McCain, liked him in 2000 and still believed he would be a strong president. His centrist message I felt spoke for citizens like me. So I agreed to be a delegate. The convention in Minneapolis was indeed interesting as I listened to some stirring speeches from men like keynoter Giuliani, watched strings get pulled from the back rooms, mixed with other delegates at the social events, and saw the GOP shoot itself in the foot by nominating Sarah Palin as McCain's running mate. Scuttlebutt had it that the VP candidate McCain preferred was Joe Lieberman, who appeared on the convention floor via TV. I was not surprised that he was not chosen, since he was never a Republican and he was a previous VP candidate and lost. But Mrs. Palin proved to be a total mistake. With her help, they lost the election. And they lost me.

Ever since 2008, protests and demonstrations from both extremes make the news. Actual talk of a new American Revolution **ignites** further parades and power struggles. Igniting violence won't solve our problems. Count me out of that project.

Debates and diatribes cloud the immigration issue. Instead of taking new residents and teaching them the English language and the principles of this country, we see "bilingual education" turning out a growing generation of second-class citizens. Our Border Patrol does not stop illegal immigration, but we hire the immigrants, buy smuggled drugs, and then deny their children the rights of our Constitution. Let's face it. Immigrants built this country. Don't penalize them for our mistakes. Just make them Americans.

Other pressure groups build court cases against Obama and his appointees. And some of those appointees build and launch court cases against those who oppose them. **Indictments** carry the election process into daily legal combat. They won't solve our problems either. Possibly Obama was not eligible to be president of the United States. But he got elected, twice. Eligible or not, his administration created a situation that we are stuck with. The question is, how do we remedy it?

The answer is: **Improve.**

Rivals squabble over a possible Republican candidacy, while the liberal media exalts Hillary, and barely acknowledges her few Democratic rivals. If Bush was a mistake and Obama a failure, Hillary has every chance of being a disaster.

Since neither the Democrats nor the Republicans are coming up with any program more solid than blaming the other side, citizens like me need a legitimate third choice.

We have just months. Somewhere in this great land there must be people with the required vision, the required resources and the essential will to launch a viable independent party. A party like that could find qualified candidates to put forward a fair and workable platform, a domestic, economic and foreign policy program that we could believe in.

Whoever they are, I hope they read this. And I hope they will organize citizens like me to vote for **Improvement**. This is still a great country. It still holds the beacon of freedom that brought our parents and grandparents to these shores. Thank G-d they came here. This is still the country that we found to be worth defending. And now, worth improving.

Let's do it.