

What's So Bad About Good News?

As we go to press for this July issue of **ITM**, I've just read an article in the current **TIME** magazine by a Peter Beinart, who argues that the presumptive nominees for President should **not** go on a fact-finding tour to Iraq because they might discover that the surge is working and the tide is turning in America's favor in the war on terror.

To most of us that would be good news, but apparently it's bad news to some who think we should cut and run. **TIME**'s liberal editorial *slant* is demeaning. The author of the piece implies that the men who aspire to lead our country lack the discernment to separate fact from fiction. Apparently *we the people* would be better served by denying prospective leaders access to firsthand, on-the-scene intelligence and substituting hard facts with the unprofessional surmises and opinions by Monday morning quarterbacks (like Beinart) who weren't even there, but watched the game on TV. In other words, "My mind's made up. We've lost already. Don't confuse me with the facts."

For such defeatists among us, here are some inconvenient facts regarding recent successes in the war on terror: according to *Investors Business Daily*, "on Memorial Day weekend Iraqi forces ran *al-Qaida* terrorists out of Mosul, the organization's final urban stronghold. That victory reduces the killers to fringe areas with little public support. Al-Qaida has 'never been closer to defeat than they are now,' said Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Iraq." Iraqi troops also cleaned out Basra and Sadr City, reducing any prospects for domestic insurgents to take power by force. Terrorist zeal is fading as the pressure mounts.

Columbia's Defense Minister announced that "Manuel 'Sureshot' Marulanda, founder of the Marxist FARC terror group died 'a hunted man' in the steaming jungle on March 26 as bombs rained down on him." This makes three of the top seven leaders killed since March 2008.

In Afghanistan, British forces drove the Taliban from a southern stronghold in a 96-hour battle this month. It was their first combat operation since new troops arrived in March. Even the *New York Times* reported a "palpable sense of relief among villagers, with the district chief and exiles returning to rebuild."

On July 4th 1776, America's leaders informed King George III that we'd no longer tolerate "taxation without representation." The dye was cast and many brave Americans died in our War of Independence. Since that time we've had to take a stand against an assortment of enemies who've threatened our freedom in one way or another. I remember when Hitler's goose-stepping troops marched into Poland in September 1939, launching World

War II. Then two years and three months later, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor bringing America into the conflict. We fought these enemies and won - and now they are our friends and we buy their cameras and cars.

It was easier in those days. Our enemies were clearly defined. They represented a political system that was contrary to ours. We could live with that, but when they attacked us we rallied and fought back.

Now we are engaged in a war against terrorism. Terrorism initiated, sponsored and financed by Islamofascists. It is this political aspect of Islam that makes it such a threat to our culture. We've already been invaded. There are growing enclaves of Muslims in the USA who have not assimilated and have no intention to do so. Traditionally, when people immigrate to America it is because they are searching for freedom and want to become a part of what this great nation is all about. They have helped to build a strong and vibrant America.

Not so with Muslims - they are determined to change us, to impose Sharia law, enforce *halaal* food into our market system and take us back to a 7th Century Arabian culture of dress, morality and marriage code. There are wishful thinkers among us who'd like to believe this could never happen here, but there is virtually no evidence (either geographical or historical) to support

that notion anywhere across the fruited plain.

There was hardly any viable threat of a German or Japanese invasion of the continental USA. (They could never find a place to park!) If we'd cut and run at any time during WWII, they would have chased us out of the Pacific or European theater and we would have lost any meaningful role in world leadership; but our culture - even if compromised - would still be intact.

With Islam it's different. Muslims do not assimilate - they dominate. We're in a war now with the Islamofascists. They started it with the invasion in 1979 of the American embassy in Tehran, holding US diplomatic personnel hostage for 444 days. Since then, they've bombed our military bases, ships, various embassies and finally principal buildings in New York and Washington, killing over 3,000 innocent citizens in a single day. We have good reason to be at war on our nation's 232nd birthday - we were attacked. We must stand together and fight for the principles our fore-fathers gave their lives for. This is not the time to cut and run - nor is it in our American tradition to do so.

Muslims need to hear the Good News - and that's not bad.

Bill Bathman - Cape Town

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