

There has been no heralding of trumpets, no visible evidence that the earth moved; yet the happenings of the past week will be recorded as the beginning of the end for the Presidential run by Senator Barack Obama.

As a long time political "junkie" I base this prognostication on my gut reaction to how the subject of race made a belated entry into the national dialogue

Of course I am referring to the ubiquitous film clips of the Reverend Jeremiah Wright and his strident divisive hate "pontifications" from the pulpit of the United Church of Christ in Chicago. As the pastor to Senator Obama and his family for the past twenty years, these pronouncements precipitated a firestorm that caused many of the electorate to question the character of this charismatic man who had vaulted into a rock star status overnight.

If the good Senator had been attending church and listening to Reverend Wright's sermons over the past twenty years, certainly he knew of his pastor's stance on a myriad of controversial inflammatory issues discussed and recorded from the pulpit.

Since the Senator had publicly touted his strong feelings for the Reverend Mr Wright as his mentor, pundits far and wide questioned the incongruities between Obama's inspirational appeal for hope and the Reverend Wright's divisive race baiting sermons.

To his credit, Senator Obama faced these issues head on when he made a major speech covering all of the above questions. It was perhaps one of the most powerful and eloquent of anything uttered by him or any of his contenders.

In my opinion this speech will be remembered for his bold unflinching discussion of the hitherto closeted complexity of race relations in America 2008.

Until the news about Reverend Wright's divisive rhetoric from the pulpit, race was studiously and politely ignored by fellow presidential contenders and news media alike.

However, a reality check tells me that the Senator's courageous strategy to bring this contentious matter out into the open, will not be enough to save his noble bid for immortality.

The radical right wing pundits, Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck and Fox News will fan this flame continuously, fully aware that millions of their listeners were ripe for such as tasty negative tidbit. If there had remained any residual supporters of Reagan Democrats, moderate Republicans, and Independents in their audiences, this new evidence had the potential to Swift Boat Obama just in time to push him out of contention to the Democratic nominee in 2008.

Remember, you heard it here in the Desert Daily Guide, long before the media seers will awaken to the fickle turn of public opinion, but the die is cast.

Obama is toast.

Now there is a postscript to this one act play.

If Senator Hillary Clinton becomes the presidential nominee as Obama's popularity fades, and she wisely opts to make the wonder boy Senator from Illinois her vice presidential running mate, the two would offer a power combo that just might prove unbeatable.

Vice President Obama would then grow into one of the country's most powerful and respected VEEPS and after eight years of on the job training, there would be no doubt about his new found gravitas. By 2016, Mr. O and the country should be ready for a marriage made in heaven.

After eight years serving just a heart beat away from the Presidency, his intellect and his genuine concern for all mankind, should make him truly loved and respected not only in our country but worldwide.

And maybe just maybe those Americans who were wary of a black man as the country's CEO, just might shed prejudices of three centuries and finally realize his is a leadership that will be worthy of the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I just hope I am still around to savor such an exciting metamorphosis.

There is still and outside chance it might happen this year, but from my perspective, that today is a long shot.

Daryl James Jr
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