

Why Will I Not Vote?

By Musafir

As I am approaching 62, I am disillusioned with organized religion, self-ordained family patriarchs and politicians. I have found them to be menacing, hypocrites and corrupt in that order. I am weary of anyone who preaches morality, family values (including ancient culture) and national interest. I will not trust my children to such people. The louder they speak, the farther I run.

Coming to politics, I am not voting in November 2008. Our democracy, in its present form, is a mockery. This is a government of the special interest groups and lobbyists for the special interest groups and lobbyists and by the special interest groups and lobbyists. We have two major presidential candidates this year to choose from, John Sidney McCain III and Barack Hussein Obama II. Both of them are inept, ignorant and insidious.

Before the collapse of Lehman Brothers and rescue of AIG and purchase of Morgan Stanley, Mr. McCain repeatedly said, "the fundamentals of our *economy* are strong." Although I do not expect him to have a PhD in economics, general knowledge and common sense could tell that it wasn't so. By the way, general knowledge and common sense are two essentials that our two presidential candidates ought to have, but are sadly lacking in both. Mr. McCain, a possible leader of America does not know the difference between Security and Exchange Commission and Federal Election Commission as he has often used them interchangeably and mistakenly. One day before the Federal Reserve System bailed out AIG, Mr. McCain was against any federal bail out. He changed his position the next day.

McCain is a self-declared champion of campaign finance reform. But the fact remains that McCain has 59 lobbyists raising money for his campaign, more than any of the other presidential candidates, according to the latest finding from government watchdog group, Public Citizen. Besides the above points, Mr. McCain has fumbled and shown ignorance on many important foreign policy matters. For example, he did not know the difference between the Sunni Muslims and the Shia Muslims. He thought Iraq and Pakistan shared a border. He believed Czechoslovakia was still a country. He's been confused about the difference between Sudan and Somalia. McCain, following a recent trip to Germany, even referred to "President Putin (now Putin is the Prime Minister of Russia).

McCain is a hypocrite when it comes to family values. He praises Sarah Palin as a perfect mom and demonstrates his love for his beautiful blonde wife who is his ATM machine. He had on-going affairs on every continent (we all know about the Brazilian beauty) while he was still married to his first wife, Carol (one time a swim wear model). Mr. McCain does not even care to know how many houses he owns. How would he care about the hardship of the American people?

Mr. Obama is no saint either. I will not trust my country to someone who does not believe in it. Senator Obama spent most of his Fourth of July week attempting to convince voters that he is patriotic. No man who aspires to become the president of a

country should be attempting to convince that he is patriotic. He should be patriotic beyond any reasonable doubt. Period! We all know the stories behind those suspicions and about the company he kept (including Reverend Wright controversy). I am not going to reiterate them here.

Mr. Obama is talking about the present financial crisis related to the financial sector, but he is totally clueless when it comes to a proposed solution. The Illinois senator said that the events of the past few days have delivered "the final verdict on an economic philosophy that has completely failed." When confronted by Bloomberg (a financial channel), he said, "I think it's a little premature for us to move forward on that, and frankly something like that probably could not get through Congress until we have a new Congress and new president." In my opinion, that is mumbling and we cannot expect the would-be leader of the free world to mumble on such an important issue instead of coming with a firm solution. That was the hour to show his mettle.

Mr. Obama has no record of achieving anything in the Senate. One thing is for sure, he does not believe in bipartisanship. When asked about forming a national commission modeled after the bipartisan panel that investigated the 9/11 attacks, he labeled that as "the oldest Washington stunt in the book." (September 16, 2008) "You pass the buck to a commission to study this problem," Obama said, rejecting the measure as unnecessary. "We know how we got into this mess. What we need now is leadership that gets us out. I'll provide it." That talks plenty about his attitude.

Mr. Obama always claims not to take money from the lobbyists; The truth is far from it. Last August The Boston Globe, in a piece by Scott Helman, took a hard look at Obama's contributions, noting that "behind Obama's campaign rhetoric about taking on special interests lies a more complicated truth." That truth revealed that as a state legislator in Illinois, a U.S. senator, and as a presidential aspirant, Obama had collected hundreds of thousands of dollars from lobbyists and PACs. Mr. Obama's campaign also received \$126,000 from Fannie Mae according to the CNN News (Lou Dobbs, September 24, 2008). Dishonesty and lies are worse than all other vices for a person in his position.

Neither the presidential candidates nor the Senators and the Congressmen have any idea or plan for solving the health insurance and rising medical cost crisis, creating mass transit, fixing the crumbling infrastructure, regaining American leadership in technology, balancing the budget, creating employment, matching or containing the dominance of Russia and China, elevating the standard of education, saving social security, and safeguarding us from our enemies. They are all bought by the lobbyists and special interest groups so, why should I rally around them or why should I even vote? Just thinking!