

Community Comment – August 1st, 2016

By Jon Sapper

Political Conventions

Well, the political conventions are over. Given what occurred, one commentator exclaimed, “What a disastrous start to the campaigns”. There were protests over the adequacy of chosen running mates questioning the fitness of the number two to lead the country if the need arose. Both nominees were called radical and out of touch with mainstream America, the concern being each will steer the country down a road doing harm to this country.

Many believe that government is run for the privileged few and as a country, we have lost our way. People are increasingly skeptical of political platitudes and promises made by politicians. An FBI investigation even influenced one of the conventions that could have resulted in a scandal of epic proportions, raising questions of ethics, trust and fitness to serve. Some pundits even stated a loss is all but certain in November if members within one party cannot come together and support the ticket.

I watched vocal fights over immigration policy and whether or not to halt immigrants from entering this country. There was a questioning of our role in NATO, with equal concern over an isolationist platform. Specific criticism was aimed at recent international agreements showing a weak negotiating posture with detrimental implications for our country.

Other platform positions addressed trade policy and the need for better trade agreements. Some were even challenging the very basics of the free enterprise system with suggestions to eliminate inequality in the workplace. This would be accomplished by reform of the tax code to redistribute income and wealth across our society. At the same time, a far left and some would say socialist position has created a sub group of blue collar workers that are now supporting the Republican ticket believing this is the party that can reinvigorate the economy and bring back good jobs.

We saw platforms that focused on minorities, women and other underrepresented groups and suggestions to increase the federal role in education. There was certainly an underlying tone of social justice and power

with economic justice for all permeating many of the speeches. A summary coming out of both conventions was,..... never before has there been a clearer choice. We have a choice between strength or weakness as a nation..... And in a few short months following these conventions, we found out Richard Nixon won re-election for the Presidency in 1972.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.