

Tom Cookman Air 1/3/11

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

Happy New Year! Historians will have a lot to write about when they look back on 2012. This year will be the single most important political year in most of our lives. We are a country divided and this division is different. Usually we have a minority that has a very strong opinion and they make such a fuss that their cause gets national attention and all the media hype makes us believe that the country is really at odds with one another and then along comes the election and we find out that it wasn't as close as we thought. Gay marriage is a prime example of how the liberal media downplays the majority. This year is different. Our great country is at a crossroads. President Obama has us on a path to complete Socialism. He has enough support on this socialized interstate highway that he is now pressing the accelerator to the floor and he has moved over to the carpool lane because he has enough passengers onboard to qualify to use this express lane. Socialism is where we are headed with President Obama behind the wheel. If he is reelected this year, we will be on a path of no return. The express lane will have a solid white line to the right indicating that we can't change lanes. Our country will be in the far LEFT lane. Unfortunately, the average American refuses to look at the facts. Socialism is a governing philosophy that has failed time and time again. Our country was built on capitalism and our government has survived under this system for a very long time. History proves that capitalism succeeds longer than socialism. But, the facts are clear; one half of our population endorses socialism. Thomas Jefferson was a brilliant man and he said that "The democracy will cease to exist when you

take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not".

So here we are in this historic year of 2012. Locally we have been ahead of the rest of the country when it comes to extreme liberalism. We've had many of our elected officials start out as conservatives and over the course of their careers make a 180 degree turn and end up extremely liberal. Bonnie Neely was a prime example of this type of political metamorphosis. I completely disagree with the political position that Mark Lovelace embraces, but I respect him. He doesn't stick his finger in the air to see which way the political breeze is blowing. He is an extreme liberal and was elected as such. He votes the way his constituents want him to vote. Arcata doesn't have to scratch their heads and wonder what he's up to when they see how the Board of Supervisors voted on an issue. If I hear that the vote was 4-1, I know without reading that the one dissenting vote belonged to Mark Lovelace. I respect him for that. Recently, the Board of Supervisors had a 3-2 vote on a recycling issue and Virginia Bass stood ground with Mark Lovelace. This disturbed me. The business in question was basically making a very large investment in his operation and wanted a 20 year contract for the recyclables this equipment was used for. Mark and Virginia didn't want to give him this contract. This is absurd to ask a private business to make a very large capital expenditure that is worthless without a steady supply of recycled material. I 100% endorsed Virginia Bass and was shocked to see her aligning herself with Mark Lovelace, especially with her business background. If that becomes the norm, she will lose the conservative base that got her elected.

This has been Tom Cookman with a Community Comment