

For Immediate Release

M*E*M*O*R*A*N*D*U*M

Date: 8th September 2010

Subj: Issue of the Week Number 9 "Small Minds and Political Consistency"

From: Ted Ankrum for Congress 2010

To: Media Outlets, open use

Small Minds and Political Consistency: by Ted Ankrum

When I filed my candidacy for the US House of Representatives, District 10 (Houston to Austin) in January, I said that I still stood for the same things I stood for in the 2006 campaign, but that I would have to update many of my positions. I recently completed the "Project Vote Smart" political courage test, and I had a look at some of the content they had on me. The "speeches and public statements" part was interesting to me because it had the positions I had taken in the 2006 campaign. I found that there were very few things that needed revision.

In 2006, I stated that I thought the "surge" of 30,000 troops into Iraq would do little to help and that we needed to get US troops out of the center of Iraqi villages and cities, train the Iraqi forces, and send troops to Afghanistan to finish off Osama Bin-Laden. The later two have come to pass (though too late in Afghanistan to make a difference). I, and apparently no one else, anticipated that the Iraqi Sunni tribal leadership would switch sides to the US. Even General Petraeus refuses to say that the "surge" caused the turnaround in Iraq. But, in hindsight, One can see how the Sunni tribal leadership saw themselves in a very precarious position vis-à-vis the much larger Shia majority in Iraq and chose to bind themselves to American protectors. I maintain that the jury is still out on partition of the country.

More that six months after National elections, the three factions still have not been able to form a government of national unity and the Kurds are almost autonomous in the North of the country.

In 2006, I listed the three most important issues as:

- 1) Bring troops home
- 2) Get US on the way to energy independence in 10 years
- 3) Bring runaway budget deficit under control

I still want to bring the troops home, and that will certainly help on #3. The debate on energy independence is over and there is general agreement that we must move to a post-oil economy as quickly as possible, while increasing inspection oversight of increasingly dangerous and difficult drilling. On the other hand, now is not the time to deal with the legacy of 8 years of irresponsible government by trying to reduce the deficit and put us into a

DEPRESSION. We could have done it four years ago, but we didn't. In the short term we have to get JOBS by direct government spending. The quickest way to do this is to restore REVENUE SHARING, a program killed by Ronald Reagan. Start a second round of stimulus by the Federal government borrowing it from the Chinese at 1% interest and giving it to the States to keep public service employees working and to rebuild infrastructure. Once the economy is WORKING again we can start dealing with the deficit by cutting spending and tax simplification.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and devines". You judge whether I pass the test.