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Short Takes

By George McClellan... **Sacrifice**

We are hearing talk from some officials in the Obama administration of the need for Americans to sacrifice for Obama's war effort by paying a "war tax". Such cheek!

During World War II, President Roosevelt asked Americans to sacrifice for the war effort. My first recollections as a child were what I observed in my little world which was the home, yard and garden. Therefore I didn't know what sacrifice was. I do recall my mom pulling a wagon filled with scrap metal we collected from our friends and neighbors that included steel beer cans, bent pots and pans, bits of scrap metal, copper wire, glass and newspapers. To me it was everyday life. We ate food from our own garden and bought flour in large cotton bags printed with floral designs so the bags could be turned into aprons or play cloths for children, especially girls. To me this was just normal life. I didn't realize that there was no such thing as normal life; just life that had to be dealt with. My Dad was gone as were most of the men in our neighborhood. And, because America was still in the throes of a depression when the war started, to my mother sacrifice seemed like it was the needed thing to do.

Democrats rejoice in accusing former President Bush of starting his war without asking Americans to sacrifice, a la WWII. Well, neither did Presidents Truman, Kennedy or Johnson. WWII juiced us up. America was once again prosperous and Americans were employed. Jobs were available everywhere and because of the GI Bill, education flourished. In fact the only 'sacrifice' that remained was the military draft which took a young man whether he wanted to go or not. Except for the draft, sacrifice from the citizens was not needed nor asked for.

But, back to President Bush. He didn't need to ask for sacrifice because America was at the height of its prosperity and when the figures were shaken out for each years expenditure, it was a shock to learn that the yearly costs of the Government give-away entitlement programs, far and away exceeded the cost of the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars combined.

If Obama's "war tax" is serious and if he expects that American's should accept it, then he must require that all Americans, even the bottom dwellers, pony up their fair share too. The fair share knife cuts both ways. But, I am personally even more than willing to sacrifice for America. I am willing to let my US Senators and Representatives work for only six months a year at half pay. That should slow them down from doing too much mischief to our national economy and our Constitutional freedoms and maybe even negate the need for a war tax.
