Dear Friends,

After watching the President’s State of the Union speech last week, I came down with a week-long flu. Admittedly, just listening to his sing-song cadence brings about a nasty bout of anxiety. But that phony “Reagan-esque” attempt to be cheery and positive, and offering nothing constructive, when the nation is careening toward financial ruin, was enough to require immediate medical attention. It was a cheap imitation and a contemptible performance for any leader, much less the so called “great communicator” of the Left.

We are facing a $1,500 billion dollar deficit this year—which means 40% of our annual budget will be financed by borrowed money—much of it from overseas. That’s just for 2011. In the past two years Obama has increased the national debt by a whopping $3.5 trillion dollars—and he is seems to think none of this matters.

In response to America’s crisis of uncontrolled spending and imploding debt, Obama called for more of the same—tens of billions of dollars of new spending. In the spirit of partying until the end, the President called for the nation to keep on keeping on—by

Requiem for a Patriot

Roger Milliken exemplified the finest in American free enterprise. He cared about his workers, his industry, his community and his country.

Into his 90s, Roger was holding strategy sessions and walking the halls of Congress to convince free-traders that they were swapping the manufacturing base of their nation for a mess of Chinese-made pottage.

It was 63 years ago that Roger took over the family business begun in 1865 and started to build Milliken & Co. into the largest privately owned business in America, a national and world leader in textiles and chemicals.

The great cause of the later years of his life was his workers, his company and his country, all of which he saw imperiled by a global system set up for the benefit of transnational corporations.

In 1985, Roger had come to the White House to persuade me to convince the president to sign a bill to slow the flood of textiles into the country. No way, I told him. I’m the biggest free-trader in the building, except for Ronald Reagan. Roger went away disappointed. Reagan vetoed the bill.

Within five years, some of us had seen the light and enlisted in Roger’s crusade to preserve the manufacturing core of the country he saw as inextricably tied to the prosperity and pre-eminence of the U.S.

He was there in the thick of the battle against NAFTA, GATT and the new World Trade Organization. He opposed MFN and PNTR for China. He broke with the party he helped to build to back candidates who would stand with him, as he watched the U.S. trade deficit rise, tens of thousands of industrial plants close and millions of manufacturing jobs leave for Asia. It came close to breaking his heart, he so loved his company and his country.

Intellectuals deride “paternalistic capitalism,” the idea that men who begin and build companies know better than investors, unions and markets what is best for them and their workers. Roger Milliken exemplified the best of that dying breed.

When his carpet plant in La Grange, Ga., burned down on Jan. 31, 1995, Roger could have collected the insurance, taken advantage of NAFTA, built a new plant in Mexico, employing the same low-wage labor some of his rivals were using, and pocketed the difference as profit.

Instead, the morning after the fire, he gathered the stunned workers, told them he would find temporary jobs for them, then pledged to have the most modern carpet factory in the world built on that same site in six months.

He moved his workers to plants across the South, even to England, and called friendly rivals to ask them to hire his people. He moved to La Grange, oversaw the design of the new plant, brought in 3,000 construction workers and craftsmen, and directed triple shifts to rebuild his factory.

Roger belonged to a rare species of men who used to be more common here in America than anywhere in the world. With his liberal arts degree from Yale, he was a man of ideas and a man of action. He had the ability to enlist creative genius, managerial talent and loyal workers to build an empire of production that was the best in the world. He wished to be remembered with a single word: builder.

That he was, and if America is in a time of decline, it is because we no longer produce many men like Roger Milliken.

—Patrick J. Buchanan
Charity fires Director for Tucson comments

Glen Busch and his wife have helped clothe more than 2,000 poor children since starting the Chicago chapter of Coats for Kids in 2005. But after commenting on a Facebook thread with friends that “This was not a political thing, it was a psychotic thing. This kid was nuts! Now let’s drop the ink wars and pray for the families. Maybe apologize in public....”

That comment was deemed “too radical and political” for the Busch’s boss Paul Darby, the national president of Coats for Kids, and he severed their involvement in the organization the next day.

A GOOD and HONEST man was more than old Darby could handle.

Late Night Funnies:

“President Obama held a state dinner for Chinese President Hu Jintao. The world leader with the funny name, who grew up in Asia, said he enjoyed meeting President Hu.” – Conan O’Brien

“President Hu’s advance team came a week earlier to make sure that wherever he’s staying has no Chinese drywall.” – Jay Leno

“There was a really awkward moment when the Chinese president met President Obama’s daughters and asked them, ‘So what factories do you kids work at?’” – Jay Leno

“Chinese President Hu Jintao visited the White House. Fox News said it was a gathering of the world’s most powerful communist — and the president of China.” – Craig Ferguson

“Chinese President Hu Jintao made his first official state visit to the United States. Vice President Joe Biden has been asked not to do his ‘Hu’s on first’ routine.” – Jimmy Kimmel

Clips and Quips

A Religion of Peace?

In a new fatwa issued in the lead article of Inspire magazine this month, a Yemeni-American jihadi cleric encourages jihadists living in the West to assist the financing of jihadi activities through any means possible, including theft, embezzlement, and seizure of property.

U.S. government and U.S. citizens are the primary targets. Following are the main points and excerpts from the article:

In the article, titled “The Ruling on disposing of the disbelievers’ wealth in dar Al-Harab,” the cleric deals with the issue by ruling that Western countries are considered dar al-harb [the territory of war], countries on which the rules of war apply. Since this is the case, the cleric says Muslims living in the West are not bound by any laws or contracts that prohibit them to harm their countries of residence: “It is the consensus of our scholars that the property of the disbelievers in dar al-harb is halal [permissible] for the Muslims and is a legitimate target for the mujahidin.”

Imagine—those planning acts of terror against innocent human beings needed a ruling from their religious leaders about stealing?

Bring Back the Teleprompters!

President Obama has recently canned his teleprompters, and what did we hear from the Left’s eloquent orator? America needs to “build stuff and invent stuff.” Harvard’s affirmative action program at its best!

Watch your words!

When CNN anchor John King apologized on air for the use of the phrase “in the crosshairs” by one of his guests, we took a look at some other phrases they may want to watch for: targeted districts, straight-shooter, young guns, shot in the dark, shooting from the hip, take a shot, bullet points, dead air, loaded question, take aim, slash prices.

Think the Left will apply this new heightened sense of political correctness to their darling friends in Hollywood?

In Harry’s Words

Harry Reid’s most quotable:

“When we start talking about the debt, the first thing people do is run to Social Security. Social Security...works and it’s going to be fully funded for the next 40 years...it’s not a crisis. This is...perpetuated by people who don’t like government. Social Security’s fine.”

“Our system of government is a voluntary tax system... Of course you have to pay them.”

“You could literally smell the tourists coming in the capitol.”

“I don’t know how anyone of Hispanic heritage could be a Republican, okay? Do I need to say more?”

And he’s the Democratic Majority Leader in the Senate. Do I need to say more?
“investing” in education, health care (what was Obamacare? a first installment?), infrastructure, transportation, and energy.

No guts, no honor. This is not a man willing to make the tough decisions, or pay any political price to pull this great nation back from economic disaster. Our President has determined that there is no glory in cutting—only in spending. Let the Republicans propose the cuts. Then we’ll make them pay at the polls.

So we go to the Republicans. Paul Ryan gave a terrific speech after the President’s State of the Union. While he clearly understands the seriousness of the situation, he proposed cuts that were pathetic, only $60 to $80 billion dollars this year. Far more is needed if we are going to save the country. The debt is $1,500 billion for goodness sake—$60 billion is pocket change. The Tea Partiers in Congress were somewhat more aggressive, demanding $100 billion—but that doesn’t do the job either!

The problem is that Ryan and his Tea Party colleagues have taken the welfare state—Medicare and Social Security—and the warfare state — military and homeland security—off the table. Until they put them right in the middle of the chopping block, they will fail this nation just as Obama has. It is way too late for half steps.

There is one Republican, a rising star, who understands this. Senator Rand Paul has proposed $500 billion dollars in cuts and includes details and a defense of every cut. Now we are talking!

The Government Printing Office, he proposes, should be eliminated. “The advancement in technology and innovation has brought about an electronic age, an era that includes very little reason for the government to continue printing large amounts of documents, most of which can be found and read on the internet.” Who could argue with this?

Paul proposes “re-aligning the 750 overseas bases in 63 different countries”—a defense cost savings long overdue.

Additionally, he calls for gutting the Department of Education. Prior to federal interference in the middle of the last century, he writes, Americans were the most educated population in the world. “The expansion of the role of the federal government in education has been detrimental, as the United States now ranks far below other economically developed countries.”

So far only Rand Paul has come forward with a plan, with details where the cutting needs to begin and where they can end. And he is taking his ideas right to the people.

But he can’t succeed if the other Tea Partiers we sent to Washington don’t break with the establishment and follow his lead. Or if they disagree with him, then they must propose their own cuts—in the hundreds of billions category—if they are to be taken seriously.

Happy birthday to the real “Great Communicator”

This week we celebrate the 100th birthday of another President, Ronald Reagan. I remember as if it were yesterday the comments he made to those of us with him in Kansas City the day after he lost the nomination to Gerald Ford. “We lost”, he said, “But the cause, the cause goes on.” Then he quoted an old Scottish ballad: “I’ll lay me down and bleed awhile. Though I am wounded, I am not slain. I shall rise and fight again.”

I have lived by these words all my life. The cause of America goes on and we must fight for her every day until we are able to say as Reagan did when he left office: “We did it. We weren’t just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger. We made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all.”

Friends, while we have sent many good hands to Washington this past year, America is not in good hands. The Tea Party has provided the nation with many good men and women but are they strong enough, are they courageous enough to break from those that would co-op them? Do they need a national leader like Reagan to get the job done? And, if so, where are we to find him or her? There is much work before we are done, much work.

Keep warm,

—Bay Buchanan
Among the biggest losers of the Egyptian uprising are, first, the Mubaraks, who are finished, and, next, the United States and Israel.

Hosni Mubarak will be out by year’s end, if not the end of this month, or week. He will not run again and will not be succeeded by son Gamal, whom he had groomed and who has fled to London.

Today, the lead party in determining Egypt’s future is the army. Cheered in the streets of Cairo, respected by the people, that army is not going to fire on peaceful demonstrators to keep in power a regime with one foot already in the grave.

Only if fired on by provocateurs is the army likely to clear Tahrir Square the way the Chinese army cleared Tiananmen Square.

But the army does have an immense stake in who rules, and that stake would not be well served by one-man, one-vote democracy.

Like the Turkish army, the Egyptian army sees itself as guardian of the nation. From the Egyptian military have come all four of the leaders who have ruled since the 1952 colonel’s revolt that ousted King Farouk: Gens. Naguib, Sadat and Mubarak, and Col. Nasser.

The military has also been for 30 years the recipient of $1.2 billion dollars a year from the United States. Its weapons come from America. Moreover, the army has a vital interest in the “cold peace” with Israel that has kept it out of war since 1973, produced the return of Sinai, and maintained Egypt’s role as the leader of the moderate Arabs and major ally of the United States.

The Egyptian army is also aware of what happened to the Iranian generals when the Shah fell, and what is happening to the Turkish army as the Islamicizing regime of Prime Minister Erdogan strips that army of its role as arbiter of whether a Turkish regime stays or goes.

The Egyptian army will not yield its position readily, which is why it may tilt to the ex-generals Mubarak named Friday as vice president and prime minister.

The army’s rival is the Muslim Brotherhood. The oldest Islamic movement in the Middle East, the most unified opponent of the regime, its future in a democratic Egypt, as part of a ruling coalition or major opposition party, seems assured.

And while the crowds in Cairo and Alexandria are united in what they wish to be rid of, the Muslim Brotherhood is united in knowing the kind of state and nation it wishes to establish.

Why are the United States and Israel seemingly certain losers from the fall of Mubarak? Because in any free and fair election in the Middle East, a majority will vote for rulers who will distance the country from America and sever ties to Israel.

When it comes to America and Israel, there is little doubt where the “Arab street” stands. And the freer the elections, the more the views of the Arab street will be reflected in the new Arab regime.

But why do they hate us? Is it because of who we are? Surely, it is not our freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly or free elections for which we are hated. For this is what the demonstrators are clamoring for. Indeed, it is in the name of these freedoms that the Egyptian people are demanding that we cease standing behind Mubarak and stand with them.

No, the United States is not hated across the region because of the freedoms we enjoy or even because of the lectures on democracy we do not cease to deliver. We are hated because we are perceived as hypocrites who say one thing and do another.

The Arabs say we support despots who deny them the rights we cherish. They say we preach endlessly of human rights but imposed savage sanctions on Iraq for a dozen years before 2003 that brought premature death to half a million children. They say we use our power to invade countries that never attacked us.

They say we have provided Israel with the weapons to crush the Palestinians and steal their land, and that we practice a moral double standard. We condemn attacks on Israelis, but sit silent as Israel bombs Lebanon for five weeks and conducts a war on Gaza, killing 1,400 and wounding thousands, most of them civilians.

Any truth to all this? Or is this just Arab propaganda?

After losing Turkey as an ally, Israel has just seen Hezbollah come to power in Beirut and the Palestinian Authority stripped of its credibility by the Wikileaks exposure of its groveling to America and Israel. Now Israel faces the near certainty of a more hostile Egypt.

As for America, if we are about to be thrown out of the Middle East, it would be neither undeserved nor an unmilitated disaster.

After all, it’s their world, not ours.