

Editorial

John B. Anderson For Everyone's Sake!



by Scott Williams

It's that time again, friends. Out with the old and in with the new, as they say.

Except that on March 18, those of us who were merely youthful spectators during the 1976 election have an entirely new obligation to fulfill. We must go to the polls and commit ourselves to support the one candidate whom we think should be President for the next four years. Quite an intimidating little proposition, isn't it? I think they call it democracy.

But before we cast our ballots, more importantly, we must decide how we are going to vote. Are we going to vote solely in our own interests or are we going to consider the interests of the entire nation? Shall we observe American tradition and vote for the candidate whose opinions correspond with our own? Or shall we buck tradition and place our confidence in the person whose platform promises to benefit our society as a whole?

This time, why don't we surprise our elders with a "youth vote" that reflects more than simply which candidate favors marijuana legalization and a volunteer army? Why don't we do something REALLY new -- vote for the best candidate. That'll shock 'em, won't it?

While everybody else is trying to decide who's liberal enough to be democratic, who's conservative enough to be republican, or who's independent enough to be respectable, we'll already know who's qualified enough to be President.

Anyone who has studied constitutional theory should realize that Illinois Representative John B. Anderson has the same basic understanding of the American people that our founding fathers had.

After serving in Congress for the past twenty years, Anderson has been labeled "too liberal", simply because he is telling people something that they don't want to hear -- the honest truth. In his quest for the Presidency, he has been suggesting that extreme measures must be taken before the United States can be rebuilt and re-established as the superior international force.

His proposed 50 cents gasoline tax epitomizes Federalist Paper No. 10, which states that the first objective of government is to protect the people from themselves. In essence, the proposed tax would force people to reduce gas consumption. But Americans refuse to believe that they are basically self-interested people who are not going to conserve gas, even though it would be in their own best interest, unless forced to do so.

The other presidential candidates have primarily based their campaigns on reassurances that America is still a beautiful place in which to live and, given time, our problems will work themselves out. Anyone who votes for one of those idealistic candidates certainly must also believe that Watergate never happened and that the A-bomb doesn't exist.

If John B. Anderson isn't elected President, it's only because people are not ready to accept the truth about America. Because that's exactly what Anderson is offering: realistic interpretations of our problems and realistic solutions.

Most people who vote on March 18 will vote for the candidate who best represents what they want from their government. But shouldn't we instead vote for the candidate who best represents what America needs from her government? And why can't America's youth take the initiative by voting for the man who clearly holds the most hope for our nation's future -- John B. Anderson.