

**Subject:** suggestion

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**From:** Dennis Burke <burke@goodgovernment.org>

**To:** GrannyD <grannyd3@verizon.net>

**CC:** Jim Haddock <gofish12@excite.com>

*speech*

Dear Doris and Jim,

What do you think about sending this kind of message along to the granny list. Too paranoid?

Dennis

Dear Friends,

The Republicans, including Mr. Bush, Mr. Rove and others, are today predicting that they will retain control of the U.S. House and Senate.

It is important to understand this claim in the context of the growing certainty that America's voting machines are open to rigging, that some Republican states have outlawed or attempted to outlaw exit polling, and in the context of some early experiences where voters in Florida and Texas who have the opportunity to vote early on electronic machines have reported seeing the machines flip their votes from Democratic candidates to Republicans.

So if, despite the current polls that show American voters ready to make a change, the election in fact generates an outcome favorable to the Republican control of the House and Senate, there will undoubtedly be widespread and quite justified suspicion. For some, who know what happened in Florida in 2000 and in Ohio and elsewhere in 2004, it will be quite too much.

It is also a fact that U.S. warships have been stationed just off the shore of Iran. Should a missile be launched from the direction of Iran toward the ships, the election mood in America might change overnight. Anyone, of course, could launch such a missile. Before anyone be to alarmed at the suggestion that the Bush people might put American servicemen at risk to influence U.S. politics, please look at the list of nearly 3,000 American dead in Iraq, whose sacrifice was used to pursue tax cuts, special-interest no-bid contracts and, indeed, U.S. elections. Is such a possible event abroad the basis for the optimism of Bush and Rove? We will know soon enough.

If an event happens in Iran of suspicious motivation on the eve of the election, we may be cooked, indeed. There will be no opportunity to rerun the election.

But if there is no such event, and the election results vary

dramatically from exit polling, it may be time to act.

We have seen elections rerun in countrie--the Ukraine, for example--where the fraud was clear and the people were unwilling to leave the streets. We don't know what will happen here. Surely, the news channels will say the pollsters got it wrong, the Republican turn-out-the-vote machine saved the day, and they will point to the fact that Bush and Rove and other top Republicans predicted victory all along.

The promoting of the Bush-Rove prediction and the quite undeserved hype around the Republican vote-turnout machine (they did no better in 2004 than the Dem. machinery) can be viewed today with suspicion--that the groundwork is being laid for an illegal coup of sorts, which any rigged election surely is.

While these are only suspicions, they are not unreasonable suspicions.

Therefore, what are our plans for November 8th if there is a wild divergence between exit polling and the outcome, and if it appears that another election has been corrupted?

There seems to be no organizing infrastructure in place to move quickly ahead. It will probably be one of those instances in history where the people will have to give the courts and lawyers time to act.

For example, if millions of people demanded two things: a return to paper ballots as a first demand and an invalidation of the November 7th election based on sufficient evidence, and if peaceful crowds overwhelmed the news cycles and the regular business of government for an indefinite time, these demands might result in action, even though no real mechanism exists in the law presently to move in those directions rapidly.

Who will be in a position of respect and credibility to declare that the election was fair or rigged? We should decide in advance who would be our judge and jury for that determination. I expect the opinion of Jimmy Carter, for example, might be persuasive to many, if it were available. Who else? Who would be brave enough to speak soon enough to do any good? I expect a panel of investigators put together by the Lawyers Guild might also be authoritative. I would hope that organizations with the capability to assemble such credible observers and judges will act now to prepare contingency arrangements.

Then, should credible public judges determine and declare that the election was very likely not fair, what actions should the people take, and who will organize the movement of people and the provisions necessary for their support?

There are certainly web-based groups with the large lists necessary to rapidly organize people, money and supplies. I urge them to prepare contingency plans right now, in the event they are needed. I need not mention the names of these organizations, and I need not suggest that they confer with each other to create a workable

division of labor.

But, remarkably, it is time for that kind of planning. We may not need any of that, and let us hope that all goes well. But if it is time to press our two demands, let us know among ourselves that we are all prepared to do so. Pack a bag and put it aside.

Sincerely,

Friends of Granny D