

June 20, 2012

Jennifer Rubin has advice for the VP pick.

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There are a couple of months to go, but here are eight considerations for Romney in making his VP pick:

1. Can articulate a free-market message. Romney is making a convincing case that the president is in over his head, at a loss to understand what ails the economy and how to fix it. The more help Romney can get in this department and the more vigorously a VP can spell out the flaws in the Obama economic policy, the better. ...

Michael Barone thinks he knows why Romney will out fund raise the president.

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Four years ago, the Obama forces [heavily outspent](#) those supporting John McCain. The Obama campaign had enough money to target -- and carry -- heretofore Republican states like North Carolina and Indiana.

That experience made the Democrats spoiled. The prospect that the other side would have as much money as they do struck them as a cosmic injustice. The prospect that it would have more -- heaven forbid!

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What's really interesting is that, if current projections are right, this will be the third election in a row in which the party holding the White House will be outspent by the opposition. ...

Barone also posted on the need for Romney to get support from the Reagan democrats.

What's up with the white working class vote? For years the horny-handed blue collar worker was the star of the New Deal Democratic coalition. It was for him, and his wife and family, that Democrats taxed the rich, invented Social Security and supported militant labor unions.

Well, that was then and this is now. White working class voters -- or white non-college voters, the exit poll group most closely approximating them -- are now a mainstay of the Republican coalition.

Ronald Brownstein, a clear-sighted and diligent analyst of demographic voting data, provided some useful perspective in his most recent National Journal column. His bottom line is that in order to win this year, Mitt Romney must capture two-thirds of white non-college voters -- about the same percentage that voted for Ronald Reagan in his 1984 landslide re-election.

The reason Romney must do so well is that white non-college voters are a smaller part of the electorate now than they were then. In 1984 they comprised 61 percent of all voters. In 2008 they comprised 39 percent. ...

Despite all the good news for Romney, [Toby Harden](#) sees problems in the way he answered the immigration move.

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While the election is will turn principally on the economy and be much more about Obama than Romney, the presumptive Republican nominee can't duck difficult questions or talk about only what he wants to talk about. And Hispanics in those swing states matter, as do the views of swing voters (likely to be moderate on immigration) across the country.

Democrats are right to be panicking and, as Al Hunt [suggests here](#), the Obama campaign might well be in need of an intervention. But Obama used the power of his office on Friday to knock Romney off balance. And Romney's failure to respond coherently shows that he can be unsteady on his feet - something that should concern Republicans.

[Telegraph, UK](#) has background for one of Churchill's most famous speeches.

The address he made to the British nation as it stood alone against the Nazi war machine is one of the most celebrated speeches in history.

Full of passion and Shakespearesque language, his appeal for fortitude and courage was credited with re-galvanising the country in its darkest hour.

But a new examination of his papers shows how he agonised over every famous phrase – even adding one at the last minute – and how his private secretary was secretly unimpressed by his efforts.

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Daily Mail, UK reports we have escaped our solar system.

With absolutely no attempt at hyperbole at all, it is fair to say that this is one of - if not the - biggest achievement of the human race.

For, as we speak, an object conceived in the human mind, and built by our tools, and launched from our planet, is sailing out of the further depths of our solar system - and will be the first object made by man to sail out into interstellar space.

The Voyager 1, built by Nasa and launched in 1977 has spent the last 35 years steadily increasing its distance from Earth, and is now 17,970,000,000km - or 11,100,000,000miles - away, travelling at 10km a second.

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Right Turn

Eight keys to finding a no-fault VP

by Jennifer Rubin

There is good reason for Mitt Romney to wait until close to the convention to pick his running mate, and not simply to keep the TV ratings from plummeting. Campaigns take on a life of their own, exposing weaknesses and creating opportunities. What Romney might have looked for in a VP earlier in the race (e.g. reassurance for the base) doesn't look so important now. Other considerations have moved up (e.g., a worldwide economic slowdown).

There are a couple of months to go, but here are eight considerations for Romney in making his VP pick:

1. *Can articulate a free-market message.* Romney is making a convincing case that the president is in over his head, at a loss to understand what ails the economy and how to fix it. The more help Romney can get in this department and the more vigorously a VP can spell out the flaws in the Obama economic policy, the better.

2. *A calm and reassuring demeanor.* Romney is being painted as a wide-eyed extremist bent on gutting government. The former Massachusetts governor with a center-right record doesn't fit that bill (to the dismay of President Obama's spinners), and he should select someone who is likewise an improbable "radical." While the VP must often play the role of attack dog, it will pay off to choose someone who can do it with a smile and good cheer.

3. *Solid in the Midwest.* At this point Romney could very well break through in blue states such as Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. He'll also need to keep Ohio in his column. It's not been fashionable in recent election cycles to choose a VP to nail down a home state, but in this case finding a running mate who is effective and well known in a crucial part of the country is a plus.
4. *Boring is fine.* Much has been made of Ohio Sen. Rob Portman's lack of pizzazz. But that seems like a trivial concern right now. In a campaign in which the presidential nominee is selling himself as mature and experienced and *Obama* is turning out to be the bore, charisma should be relatively irrelevant in Romney's VP selection concerns.
5. *A reformer.* Romney is not running as the candidate of "no," but as the candidate who can use common-sense conservative principles to solve our problems. Someone with a reputation for innovation or for deal-making, rather than an intransigent partisan, would reinforce this message.
6. *National security experience is a plus.* Romney could well encounter some foreign policy crises during the campaign, and, if elected, would certainly see his share of national security challenges. It pays to have someone on the ticket with national security know-how (gained either in Congress or in the military).
7. *Find someone with whom Romney gets along.* Campaign staffers and pundits have noted that when Ann Romney is present at campaign events with her husband he is more relaxed and more effective as a speaker. Although a VP won't be with Romney all the time, there will be many side-by-side events and likely a few interviews with the two of them. It's beneficial if the VP and Romney have, for lack of a better description, some chemistry and Romney can be looser and more at ease in his or her presence.
8. *Diversity shouldn't be the controlling factor.* The surest way to botch a VP rollout is to have the running mate remind voters of Sen. John McCain's lightly vetted VP. The voters and press will smell a "token" a mile away, and Romney will blow his reputation as a seasoned executive if he picks an obscure or relatively inexperienced running mate.

Washington Examiner

'Angry' money gives funding edge to GOP and Romney

by Michael Barone

There has been a lot of wailing and gnashing of teeth as, in the spring, it appeared that forces supporting Mitt Romney would be able to raise about as much money as those supporting Barack Obama. There's even more now that it seems likely that the pro-Romney side will raise and spend more money than the pro-Obama side.

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What's really interesting is that, if current projections are right, this will be the third election in a row in which the party holding the White House will be outspent by the opposition.

In 2004, incumbent Republican George W. Bush's side was outspent narrowly by those opposing him and favoring Democrat John Kerry. One reason is heavy spending by billionaire [George Soros](#), about which we heard few complaints from those now decrying the billionaire Koch brothers' spending as a threat to democracy.

In 2008, Barack Obama [broke his promise](#) to rely on public financing and raised and spent about \$750 million. About half as much was spent on behalf of John McCain, who accepted public financing.

Now, despite the clout any incumbent president has, Democrats are likely to be outspent by Republicans.

All of which tends to undermine the case made for campaign spending limits. In the 1976 [Buckley v. Valeo](#) case, the Supreme Court said limits on campaign contributions were constitutional. They didn't violate the First Amendment guarantee of free speech because they were intended to prevent corruption or the appearance of corruption.

In effect the Court said that you can abridge First Amendment rights in order to limit "smart money" contributions. Smart money, by definition, goes only to incumbents and candidates with a good chance of winning.

But in our last two presidential elections and apparently in this one, the smart money going to the party in power has been outweighed by "angry money" going to the party out of power.

The billionaires and the many, many others fueling the anti-Bush coffers in 2004 believed that the 43rd president had lied America into an unjustified and probably unwinnable war. I didn't agree but, hey, it's a free country and people should be free to try to elect the candidate of their choice.

In 2008 Barack Obama raised a lot of "hope" money and, since it looked like a Democratic year, a lot of smart money. But angry money from Bush haters helped propel his total take to record levels.

This year there's no doubt that the billionaires and the many, many others contributing to the Romney campaign and pro-Romney super-PACs are angry about the Obama Democrats' policies and believe they will be harmful to the nation.

In sum, angry money seems to be trumping smart money in American politics these days.

Which leads one to wonder whether the increasingly Sisyphean project of restricting campaign contributions is worth pursuing any longer.

The Supreme Court in *Citizens United* and other cases seems to be edging toward a reversal of *Buckley v. Valeo*. There may be five votes in favor of giving political speech the same First Amendment treatment as student armbands, nude dancing and flag burning.

That would just restore the priorities of the Framers, who were sure interested in protecting political speech much more than these other things.

American voter turnout has been rising and so has Americans' willingness to contribute money to political causes they think important. These are not negative trends, though incumbents targeted in attack ads tend to think so.

The apparent Republican edge in spending this year, like the Democratic edge in 2004, was evidence of widespread and heartfelt opposition to an incumbent president. It's a sign of civic health, not sickness.

Washington Examiner

[Romney needs big share of white working class vote](#)

by Michael Barone

What's up with the white working class vote? For years the horny-handed blue collar worker was the star of the New Deal Democratic coalition. It was for him, and his wife and family, that Democrats taxed the rich, invented Social Security and supported militant labor unions.

Well, that was then and this is now. White working class voters -- or white non-college voters, the exit poll group most closely approximating them -- are now a mainstay of the Republican coalition.

Ronald Brownstein, a clear-sighted and diligent analyst of demographic voting data, provided some useful perspective in his most recent National Journal column. His bottom line is that in order to win this year, Mitt Romney must capture two-thirds of white non-college voters -- about the same percentage that voted for Ronald Reagan in his 1984 landslide re-election.

The reason Romney must do so well is that white non-college voters are a smaller part of the electorate now than they were then. In 1984 they comprised 61 percent of all voters. In 2008 they comprised 39 percent.

The good news for Romney is that Republicans have been running near these levels for some time. In 2008 the white non-college vote went 58 to 40 percent for John McCain. In 2010 the white non-college vote for the House of Representatives was 63 to 33 percent Republican. Current polling shows Obama at about 33 percent among this group.

Another way to look at it is that in 1984, white non-college voters came in 7 percent more Republican than the national average. In 2008 and 2010 they came in 11 to 12 percent more Republican than average.

Such data tends to undercut the theory, first advanced by Ruy Teixeira and John Judis in their 2002 book "The Emerging Democratic Majority," that as minorities and working women became a larger share of the electorate, Democrats could command majorities for years to come.

That was true in some years, like 2006 and 2008, but not in others, like 2009 and 2010. Then it was counterbalanced by heavy Republican margins among white non-college voters.

As a majority group -- 86 percent of voters in 1940 and 61 percent in 1984 -- white non-college voters could not be ignored by either party. Party platforms and candidate rhetoric were aimed at them. A party that failed to win over this group, like the Democrats in 1984, would suffer landslide defeat.

Also, voters who are conscious they are part of a group that accounts for a large majority of the electorate will be open to appeals from both parties. They can be confident that both, over time, will be looking for their votes.

Things operate differently with groups that are self-conscious minorities. One party may antagonize them in search of votes from other groups. Democrats' efforts to woo blacks and liberal college-educated whites turned off the white working class in the 1980s.

Barack Obama seems to be doing the same thing this year. His support of same-sex marriage won't help with non-college whites. Nor will his blocking the Keystone pipeline with all its blue collar jobs.

Add to the list the contraception mandate being denounced in Catholic churches. And the move to give work permits to something like 1 million illegal immigrants.

In each case Obama is trying to instill enthusiasm in a core Democratic constituency -- and poking a finger in the eye of the white working class.

Meanwhile, there is evidence that demographics may not work as strongly for Democrats as many predicted.

The Pew Hispanic Center reported in April there has been more reverse migration to Mexico than Mexican migration into the United States since 2007, and the Pew Research Center reported Monday that in 2010 there were more mostly high-skill immigrants from Asia than mostly low-skill immigrants from Latin America.

According to exit polls, Latinos made up 9 percent of the electorate in 2008 and 8 percent in 2010. They voted 67 to 31 percent for Obama in 2008 and 60 to 38 percent Democratic for House candidates in 2010.

Obama's support among them seems to be holding up well, but Latino turnout may be low, as it was in California's primary. The virtual halt in Latin immigration makes it unlikely Latinos will double their share of the electorate soon, if ever.

Meantime, there are four times as many white non-college voters leaning Republican by a similar margin. Demographics can work both ways.

Daily Mail,UK

[Mitt Romney's faltering response on immigration is a warning sign for Republicans.](#)

by Toby Harnden

By any standards, President Barack Obama has had a horrible past fortnight or so. Unemployment rose to 8.2 percent, he told struggling Americans that 'the private sector is doing fine' and he sought to relaunch his campaign with a rambling, whiny, nothing-new 54-minute speech that was panned even by many of his supporters.

That speech was on Thursday. But on Friday Obama showed what he, as President of the United States, could do. As Mitt Romney was starting a battleground bus tour in New Hampshire, Obama changed the subject - he announced that up to 800,000 illegal immigrants could remain in America.

It was a clever move by Obama. It at once exposed: Romney's "Etch A Sketch" on immigration following his "self-deportation" talk in the primaries; the inaction of Congress; the split within the GOP on the issue; the nativist sentiments of some Republicans, which turn off independents.

With Senator Marco Rubio about to draft legislation advocating a very similar move, Obama outmaneuvered Romney and put him in a bind: slam Obama and Romney looked churlish and cruel, and risked alienating Hispanics; agree with him and he contradicted primary Mitt and alienated part of the GOP base.

News about Romney's bus tour and his attacks on Obama over the economy were completely drowned out.

So what did Romney do? Well, for nearly six hours on Friday, he did nothing, opting to make no comment at all. Then, he rather uncomfortably echoed what Rubio had said several hours before: that the actual policy sort of made sense but it was introduced in a political way that would make a comprehensive solution more difficult.

On CBS's Face the nation yesterday, Romney [declined to answer](#) repeated questions about whether he would keep Obama's new policy if Congress didn't act (hardly a far-fetched scenario). It was clear that he wanted to talk about something, anything else.

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Telegraph, UK

Winston Churchill 'agonised' over finest hour speech, papers reveal

To many, it was Winston Churchill's finest hour.

by Richard Alleyne

The address he made to the British nation as it stood alone against the Nazi war machine is one of the most celebrated speeches in history.

Full of passion and Shakespearesque language, his appeal for fortitude and courage was credited with re-galvanising the country in its darkest hour.

But a new examination of his papers shows how he agonised over every famous phrase – even adding one at the last minute – and how his private secretary was secretly unimpressed by his efforts.

The "finest hour" speech was made on June 18, 1940, during one of the lowest and most uncertain moments of the Second World War.

The Battle of France was lost, the Battle of Britain was about to begin and the country stood alone against the might of a German offensive that had swept much of Europe before it.

The speech he delivered, first to parliament and then over the radio to the nation, was to become one of the most celebrated of the war – and his career.

But while many consider Churchill's oratorical mastery to have sometimes been improvised or off-the-cuff, a new examination of his papers, held at Cambridge University's Churchill Archives Centre, reveals the toil that went into early drafts – and the revisions made until the last possible moment before delivery.

They show how the speech went through at least two drafts – the first dictated to his secretaries, then revised in longhand and then put into blank verse form for emphasis and rhythm.

The House will hv read the historic declaration in which at the desire of many Frenchmen, and of our own hearts, we hv proclaimed our willingness to conclude at the darkest hour in French history, a Union of common citizenship in their struggle.

However matters may go in France, or with the French Govt. we in this Island and in the British Empire, will never lose our sense of comradeship with the French people.

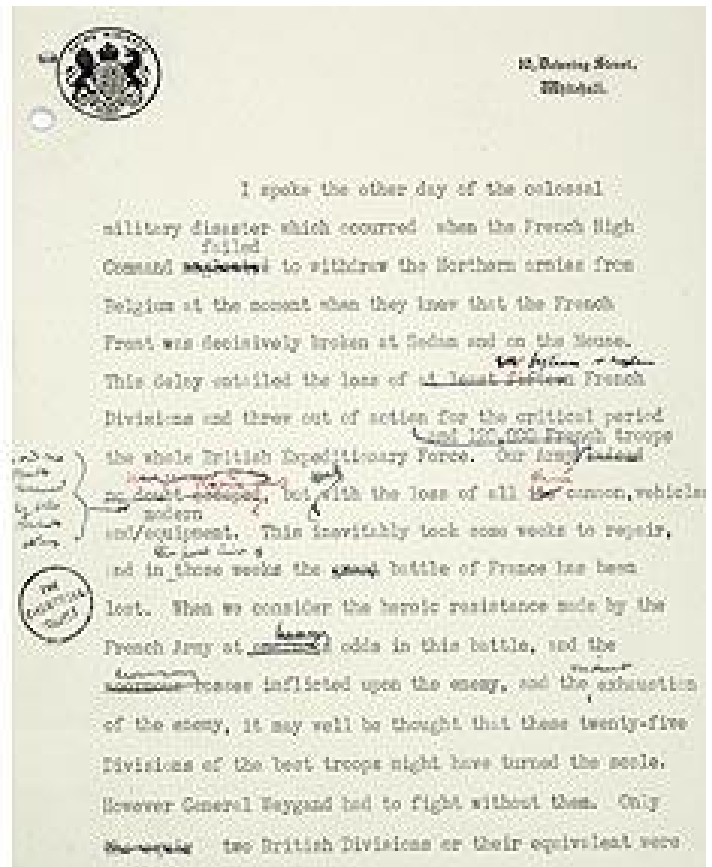
If we are now called upon to endure what they hv suffered, we shall emulate their courage, and if final victory rewards our toils, they shall share the gain, — aye, and freedom shall be restored to all.

We abate nothing of our just demands.

Czechs, Poles, Norwegians, Dutch and Belgians, who have joined their causes with our own.

All shall be restored
What General Weygand calls 'the battle of France' is over.

The battle of Britain is about to begin.



Even this draft he would revise and correct right up to the last minute in red and blue ink – even insert completely new phrases.

The best example of this is on the penultimate page of these final speaking notes.

Just before the phrase "The Battle of France is over. The Battle of Britain is about to begin", he added in his own red pen, at the last moment, "all shall be restored".

The papers have been drawn together and released by the archives Director Allen Packwood to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

As well as Churchill's own papers they include those of his wife, and staff such as private secretary Sir Jock Colville.

Mr Packwood said: "It highlights how much care and attention Churchill put into this speech. He knew how much was riding on this. The country was facing a huge national crisis.

"France had capitulated and Britain was facing the prospect of attack and invasion.

"The 'all shall be restored' quote is the kind of phrase that makes the hairs stand up on the back of your neck.

"These papers show the evolution of some of the greatest phrases in the English language."

He said they also show the incredible strain he was under.

"He was a man of 65 operating under incalculable pressure," he said. "Things are about as bad as they possibly could be but he is able to craft the oratory in this moment of extreme stress.

"He has been in danger of being idolised but these paper show that he was only human."

But while the speech helped rejuvenate the nation, the papers also show that his private secretary Sir Jock was not that impressed. He also pointed out that for the radio broadcast he smoked throughout.

He wrote in his private diary at the time, "It was too long and he sounded tired. He spoke less well than on the last occasion and he referred more to his notes. but he ended magnificently.

"He smoked a cigar all the time he was broadcasting."

Max Arthur, author of the just published Last of the Few, said: "This is a colossal speech, the way he's evolved it, thought it through, realising more than any other Prime Minister before him just what impact this would have on the nation."

Daily Mail, UK

[Humanity escapes the solar system; Voyager 1 signals it has reached the edge of instellar space - 11 billion miles away](#)

by Eddie Wrenn

With absolutely no attempt at hyperbole at all, it is fair to say that this is one of - if not the - biggest achievement of the human race.

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Indications over the last week implies that Voyager 1 is now leaving the heliosphere - the last vestige of this solar system.

The probe is still detecting 'spikes' in the intensity of cosmic ray electrons - which lead scientists to think it's still within the 'heliosheath', the very outer edge of our solar system.

The Voyager probe has been travelling towards the outer reaches of the solar system since 1977 - it has enough batteries to last until 2020, scientists estimate

The Atlantic reports that the Voyager 1 - which is still managing to communicate with Earth with radio waves that reach us 16 hours later - is beginning to experience a bit of heat.

It is detecting more energetic particles around it, implying it is at the very edge of the heliosheath, which is like a bubble around the solar system, protecting us from the cosmic winds of deep space.

The Voyager entered the heliosphere in 2004

According to The Atlantic, certain cosmic rays have a hard time entering the heliosphere, but as of last month, the sum of these slower particles increased by about 10 per cent.

This does not necessarily mean we have crossed over - but it means we are getting close.

For the past year, Voyager 1 used its instruments to explore the new region. It appeared to be the cosmic doldrums where solar winds streaming out from the sun at 1 million mph have dramatically eased

Voyager is now detecting the first traces of 'interstellar winds' - the signs it is finally reaching the edges of solar system

Voyager scientist Edward Stone told The Atlantic: 'This is the first time any spacecraft has been there.

'We're looking at our data every day - we listen to these spacecraft every day, for a few hours every day - to keep track of what's going on. ... It's very exciting from a scientific point of view, when you're seeing something that nobody's seen before.

'Since nothing's ever been there before, we don't know what it will look like, which makes it a little hard to recognize "it" at all.

'That's the exciting thing.'

It will be hard to define when Voyager has left. It will not be a clean break - the molecules will thin out less, and there will be no wall or set boundary.

What will the Voyager find out there? Probably close to an absolute vacuum, save for a few long-range comets which still orbit the sun.

Scientists expect to see several telltale signs when Voyager 1 finally crosses the boundary including a change in the magnetic field direction and the type of wind.

Interstellar wind is slower, colder and denser than solar wind.

Voyager 1 and its twin, Voyager 2, were launched in 1977 to tour the outer planets including Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune



OBAMA EVOLVES



