

Published on Thursday, Nov 20, 2008

Talk about class warfare

I'd like to respond to the letter from Janis Seward ("Take a closer look at Obama," Nov. 3.)

Her central thesis, never directly stated but implied rhetorically in nearly every paragraph, is that Barack Obama is an impostor, a con man and a proponent of class warfare.

While offering not a single fact to substantiate these myths (but why should she be held to a higher standard than the Republican presidential campaign?), it is clear that Seward understands the importance of anticipating an opposing argument.

One rejoinder I have is to challenge Seward to explain why tax policies enacted during the President George W. Bush's two terms in office, policies that overwhelmingly favored the wealthiest among us, did not qualify as class warfare or redistribution of wealth.

She deftly deflected any such parry with this gem of rhetorical innuendo: "When the rich can no longer employ us, will we finally awaken?"

In other words, don't the lower classes understand that their livelihood depends on the altruism of the enlightened and incentivized rich?

Well, not at the moment, it seems. Perhaps when the jobs crisis reaches its critical mass and the unemployment rate goes through the roof, we in the "great unwashed" will gain such an understanding and demand a return to the trickle-down model of economics which worked so well for us under George W. Bush.

But if I were Seward, I wouldn't hold my breath.

Tom Liston

Stow