

Kernish  
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To nobody's surprise and everybody's dismay, Barry Goldwater walked off with the Republican nomination in San Francisco; in the process of doing so, he moved the Republican party several degrees to the right and sent liberals scurrying off in all directions wailing about atomic war and incipient fascism. Many eastern Republicans announced that they would not support their national ticket in November, some coming out openly for Johnson. In the wake of the successful passage of the civil rights bill, and hyped by ~~the~~ <sup>Goldwater's</sup> ~~Republican~~ victory, the Texan looked down upon by the liberals four years ago as a sellout on civil rights has now risen to a position just below saviourhood. According to many who have been shaken by Goldwater's shoot-from-the-hip style, Lyndon Johnson is all that stands between this nation and utter disaster. Which, unfortunately, is untrue.

It would be so nice if we could solve all of our problems by rejecting this man and elevating that one, or following this policy and ignoring ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup>. Yet there is nothing in our bipartisan recent history which leads one to believe that a President Johnson would be any better <sup>er</sup> than a President Goldwater. This is a complex and dangerous age, yet the responses to the challenges of our times have been distressingly similar no matter who ruled. We fear nuclear war with a Goldwater election, yet it was the liberal Truman who first used the A-bomb and the liberal Kennedy who maneuvered this nation into a "one-minute-to-midnight" position over Cuba, and the presumably liberal Johnson who is continuing the Kennedy position on Viet-nam, a position which seems likely to lead to what is delicately called a "confrontation" with China.

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The Civil Rights Act and the Democrat's record on civil rights were irrelevant in Harlem and Rochester, a situation unlikely to change no matter who gets elected; in fact, one could with justice argue that a Goldwater victory, with stepped-up defense spending <sup>and therefore more jobs</sup> would benefit the Negro more than a Johnson victory.

None of this is meant to argue for a vote for Goldwater. It is meant as a verbal dash of cold water on those who celebrate the fact that, in this election, we now find a significant difference between the parties. It would be nice, but it isn't so, or rather, where it is so, it is on questions of shadow and style rather than on substance. The Goldwater nomination has moved American politics to the right, which is a shame because the left is better able to face up to the problems that face us all; but the Goldwater nomination has not changed <sup>the</sup> workings of the American political system, nor has it provided the real alternative which this nation so desperately needs if it is to solve the twin problems of poverty and discrimination or the deadly problem of war. Which is a pity.

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