

the number of qualified conservatives seeking office will always be less than the number of credentialed liberals. Fortunately, the electorate is basically conservative which tends to equalize the equation.

The war for the GOP's soul will continue as long as there is a GOP. Conservatives will get elected on principle, then eventually tire of governing or be out-jockeyed by moderates who love government and the Machiavellian machinations of party politics, and finally, the moderates will be thrown out of office for acting too much like Democrats — thus goes the cycle, *ad*

*infinitum*. (The last phase will almost always happen because the moderates, not having a philosophy, take matters very personally. Their fights are within the Party, whereas conservatives, being idealistic, usually see liberals as the enemy and the Party moderates as natural allies — albeit ones that often turncoat.)

A footnote — this phenomena is happening in the Clinton Administration as the Democrat moderates are aced out of key positions. The trend won't be too pronounced, though, as Democrat moderates still love government — just not as much

or as seriously as their liberal opponents within the Democrat party.

Chuck Devore  
Irvine

"The Decade of The Great Republican Death Wish" focuses on the continuing struggle between those Republicans who would restrain and limit government as opposed to those who would seek to use the police power of the state to "govern" effectively. George Bush believed there was a difference between campaigning and government. Ronald Reagan successfully merged the message with the governing.

Our own Pete Wilson schizophrenically tried both approaches. Early in his administration he attempted to follow in the footsteps of Kay Orr, ex-governor of Nebraska, and Ray Martinez, ex-governor of Florida. Soon after they were elected these moderate Republicans proposed significant tax increases and did not survive after their first terms in office. Ironically, even with the outrage over Bush's broken tax promises, our governor brought about controversial tax increases here. It now appears the governor has learned from Orr, Martinez, and Bush. But is it too late?

Wilson's re-electability notwithstanding, it is clear that Republicans can only survive and grow if they state their values concisely and clearly. Those values must be based on unrestrained economic growth, limiting government interference in our lives, and freedom from the criminal underclass. Republicans who attempt only to tinker with government, placating the non-productive, can only discredit the pro-freedom Republican message.

Shawn Steel  
Los Angeles

*Mr. Kurzweil responds:*

*My thanks for the supportive words and thoughtful comments from Messrs. Goodwin, Peterson, Devore, and Steel. Regarding Robert Spitz's complaint, my dictionary defines "bigoted" as "obstinately and blindly attached to some creed, opinion, or practice, unreasonably devoted to a system or party, and illiberal, often intolerant, toward others' opinions." Mr. Spitz turns this meaning on its head, charging bigotry to justify his own intolerance, henceforth, of my "views," which no longer "interest" him. If what I write is*

(Please turn to page 7)

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