

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1662 The Times They Are A Changin'?

I was scanning headlines over the weekend and something caught my eye that made me think of the phrase: "Politics makes for strange bedfellows." This expression means that in politics, people or groups who might not typically associate with each other can come together for a common cause or interest, often due to necessity or shared goals, despite their differences. I'm Jerry Roberts and there are some things starting to happen in Pre-Trump Washington DC that may prove beneficial to all of us. That's next on the Extra Point.

Business Insider, a key media source, has reported that Democrat Sen. Bernie Sanders is extending an olive branch to President-elect Donald Trump and his incoming administration.

Sanders made headlines when he posted on X his support for Musk's effort to curb defense spending. Musk, called a threat to democracy by Sanders, responded with a laughing emoji and said, "Maybe we can find some common ground."

The Vermont senator listed areas of common interest with Musk, co-chair of the Department of Government Efficiency, DOGE, a new extragovernmental body aiming to cut federal government costs.

Sanders has been trying to curtail waste in the Department of Defense for years, but never got much support on that from his fellow Democrats. Now, along comes Musk and Vivec Ramiswamy, DOGE's other co-chair, and they're ready to take on the powers that be to eliminate overspending.

Sanders and Musk both have made it clear that cutting essential defense projects is not their goal, just to get rid of the fat in the budget. Given Guam's situation, I'd say that we're in the "essential" category.

Like I said at the beginning, politics can indeed make for strange bedfellows. One day

you're barking at each other, and the next you're arm in arm over a common cause.

Sanders, cochair of the Senate health committee, also seeks to connect with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Donald Trump's proposed Health Czar. Both men see eye to eye on issues such as ultraprocessed foods and their detrimental impact on America's overall health.

Sanders said: "When Kennedy talks about an unhealthy society, he's right. The amount of chronic illness that we have is just extraordinary."

If Trump can get some early wins, he'll develop more support among previous critics and foes. Politicians are survivalists. They know that the overwhelming majority of voters — blue and red — want governmental reform. They also know that, as a nation, we are not healthy and it's fixable. Just about everyone can agree on these points.

When this movement gathers momentum, politicians who now answer to the wallets of lobbyists and who oppose what the new administration is trying to do, will likely face major challenges in the next election.

In Guam, nine Republicans and six Democrats will be sworn in next month for the new Guam Legislature; with at least two of those on the Democrat side who may not vote along party lines. What possibilities will that present?

What does any of this mean for you? Is there anyone you might want to reach out to that you once felt or now feel is an adversary? Is there some connection you've wanted to make but something always held you back? Are you waiting for just the right time?

Well, 2025 may be what you've been waiting for. I see a big neon sign flashing just one word: OPPORTUNITY...OPPORTUNITY.

(Con't.)

The poet once said:

Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall
For he that gets hurt
Will be he who has stalled
The battle outside ragin'
Will soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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