

The American Spectator

The Spectacle Blog

The Henry VIIIth Ticket for the GOP

By Doug Bandow on 11.19.11

Newt Gingrich is on the rise in the polls for the Republican presidential race. He still seems an unlikely nominee--someone who views himself as the reincarnation of Winston Churchill and who happens to be as philosophically inconsistent as was Churchill. You know, health insurance mandates are good; no, they are bad. Fix Medicare; no, don't touch it. Vote for all those tired old agriculture subsidies; no, reimagine America. That sort of thing.

His predilection to lecture the American people also is not a noted vote-getter. But maybe that wouldn't be quite such a liability if he was running against Barack Obama, who lacks Bill Clinton's ability to connect with voters. (The latter might have been a fraud, but he was such a *good* fraud!)

Still, the potential of a Gingrich nomination has led to speculation about who might be an appropriate running mate. One of my friends--a sadly cynical fellow long active in New York Republican politics--has come up with the perfect choice. Rudy Giuliani.

Think of it. Gingrich-Giuliani. As my friend puts it, it would be the Henry VIIIth ticket! Just what you would expect when it comes to the Republican Party, whose leaders seem to have such a hard time living up to their rhetoric about morality. Certainly a perfect choice for values voters