

Confrontational Politics
How to Effectively Practice the Politics of Principle
Author: Senator H.L. Richardson
Book Report by: Ronnie L White 06/30/2021

About the Author - Hubert Leon Richardson (December 28, 1927 – January 13, 2020), also known as H. L. "Bill" Richardson was a twenty-two-year veteran of the California State Senate. Most of those years were served in leadership. Six times he received Legislator of the year awards from Christian and Sportsman organizations.

Richardson focused his extensive political career on the preservation and protection of Second Amendment rights. He was Founder, and Chairman of the Board of Gun Owners of California and Gun Owners of America. Membership in these organizations exceeds 200,000.

As an active hunter and outdoorsman, Richardson remained involved in state and national politics, and was a popular speaker. He continued to provide a colorful media commentary on a host of issues. He has written for numerous national publications, and is the author of two successful humorous political books, *Slightly to the Right* and *What Makes you Think We Read the Bills?* The latter is used as a textbook in political science classes throughout California.

His book *Confrontational Politics* is used by organizations and individuals as a textbook on how to defeat the left. I believe that in due course, Senator Richardson's book, *Confrontational Politics* will become a classic. Although it has a conservative perspective, it is also a tactician's manual that persons of all ideologies will enjoy. In many respects, it is ideologically neutral. This book is a very valuable book that can be read over and over again, and new lessons and insights will be gained every time.

Confrontational Politics has many features that help conservative activists overcome their natural political deficiencies. Witness chapter one, which is titled: "Why Traditional American Habits Prevent Conservatives from Successfully Countering the Left." Those familiar with presentations dealing with *The Real Nature of Politics* will find this a helpful supplement. For example, for those activists not aware of their own weakness, this chapter is a brutally honest eye-opener. The name of the game is confrontation and mobilization, but conservatives are not as effective at confrontation as they should be.

Chapter three: "The Liberal's Compromise: I Win, You Lose, Then You Lose Some More" is a very good chapter. The author speaks of the Leninist idea of advance by retreat, which most conservatives don't understand very well. Imagine a hammer being pulled back for the next hammer stroke. As the hammer pulls back, it is storing up energy for the next blow.

Chapter Four is extremely important: "Humanist Organization and Planned Confrontation on the Path to Liberal Power". Here's a good quote that was very insightful: "The cause is of

secondary importance. The primary concern is the organizational possibilities." Wow. Individuals who supported Obama on the basis of his (false) opposition to the Patriot Act and unnecessary wars of conquest should take note that they were simply a group with organizational possibilities to him. This is obvious now that he engaged the U.S. in Libya, Yemen, and Somalia, while maintaining forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also signed the Patriot Act, which Harry Reid helped organize in the Senate.

Liberty activists should read Chapter Six: "How and Why Ideological Minorities Make Policy." I believe this title speaks for itself. Another good Chapter for Liberty activists who insist on writing another 36-page white paper should read Chapter 13: "Stop Educating and Start Organizing Around Hot Buttons." The power is in the fight.

Cons: On the tactical side, there were a few minor points I disagreed with, such as the author's contention that we need to register new voters. Traditionally, this does not work well, since if they're not registered, they are unlikely to vote without major prompting. It's a long term investment that may or may not pay off.

If Neocons (conservatives who advocate the assertive promotion of democracy and U.S. national interest in international affairs including through military means) would simply realize that war and the military-industrial complex are the ultimate big government programs, there might be the possibility of uniting the Liberty wing of the GOP with the rest of it that has lost the way.

This book is a quick read. Only 119 page including citations and I highly recommend it to all CCMRA Members. Bill Richardson spells out in a series of lessons how his often hard-pressed conservative minority was able to win victory after victory on issues like the death penalty, gun control, and removing liberal judges. "The central theme of this book is the methodology both sides use. Being 'right' is not enough," he cautions.