

Sic Transit Gloria and Sarah,

So there's this guy in Michigan at a Sarah Palin book signing event and he's talking to a reporter and he says, "The thing I can't stand about Obama is that he doesn't govern he just gives speeches." Then when ex-governor Palin appears he cheers enthusiastically. It doesn't seem to occur to him that Sarah Palin had a job governing and half way through her 'commitment' she quit. She quit to write a book, make some money, go on tour and make speeches. So I guess the guy in Michigan doesn't really have a problem with speechifying instead of governing, he has a problem with the person who's making the speeches. It's not the principle, it's the personality. Oh well.

Sarah Palin is the most famous Republican in America which says a lot about the Republican Party and a lot about America. She has decided that the most important part of her life is the being famous part. Sarah Palin is entirely about the business of getting even more famous. She is devoted to it. This all points to a job in which she can be really, really famous on a daily basis. No, I'm not talking about the presidency; the presidency is not for her. If two years as the Governor of Alaska was too much to handle she probably wouldn't last two months in the White House. What she wants is a television show. And no, I'm not talking about a talk-rant show with Fox; any out of work politico can get one of those. I'm talking about an honest to goodness hour long reality show. Sarah Palin might just be the first person in entertainment history to have a daily, one hour show that is about nothing special, just her. No guests, no commentary, no books, no music and no substance, just an hour of Sarah Palin being Sarah Palin. It will be a smash hit.

Millions of Americans will tune in every day to watch because millions of Americans have nothing better to do. Millions of Americans have nothing better to do than watch a run-away Governor whose major claim to fame is that she's just like them but a lot more famous. I suppose that means that millions of Americans would like nothing better than to watch themselves on TV. Wouldn't that be the ultimate reality show? "The Me Show". There's something extremely discomfoting about the image of Jane Six Pack sitting on the couch watching Jane Six Pack sit on the couch watching TV... and enjoying it. I've talked before about cats staring at the corner of a room without a single thought in their little noggins. Sarah's show would be the human equivalent.

If she had exhibited any real ability to put forth a program, to outline and explain policies which her leadership would help deliver I would take her a lot more seriously than I do. But she hasn't. The closest she comes to providing a vision of the neo-populist future is to say, in general, what she's against. That's the style these days of her constituents. There's a general anger at and mistrust of Government and politicians. That's clear enough. There's a feeling that average folks have been discounted and the swells get all the perks. That's clear too. But historically a politician has to propose programs and policies to address those grievances. It's not enough just to say "We're all getting the shaft!" If you're going to get elected to something national, to the presidency for instance, you have to tell people how you're going to fix what's wrong.

I'll tell you this. The first real neo-populist leader to come along who has the charisma of Sarah Palin, which is undeniably big, and puts it together with a clear vision that involves details of his or her program, that politician will be a force to be reckoned with. You show me a candidate with the guile of Gingrich, the humor of Huckabee the pizzazz of Palin and the sense of Senator Thune and I'll show you an odds on winner who could be elected tomorrow. I don't like it but it's true.

But it's not Sarah. She's missing three of the four qualities and that fact will place her a distant second in any race against the President who possesses all four, big time. She's something all right but she's not the one. I have to believe that there is one out there somewhere and when that one steps forward the next race to the White House will make the McCain/Obama dustup seem like a Sunday Social and it won't be pretty.