

SAM KEPFIELD

Media, liberals breed hypocrisy

The election of Kay Bailey Hutchison last weekend as the new Senator from Texas is a case study in the hypocrisy of the media and feminist groups when it comes to women in politics.

Hutchison, the Texas state treasurer, defeated incumbent Bob Kruger by a 68-32 margin. Kruger was chosen to replace Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, now the U.S. Treasury Secretary. For the first time since Reconstruction, the GOP holds both Senate seats in Texas.

Why then are there no squeals of joy from NOW, played prominently on the evening news? Because Hutchison is a Republican, that's why.

Throughout the Texas campaign, the public heard not one peep of the "Year of the Woman" stupidity that so dominated the '92 Senate races. The reason is politics. Hutchison, unlike Feinstein, Boxer, Murray, Mosley-Braun and company, is not a liberal Democrat.

It's not surprising, though. In 1990, eight women ran for U.S. Senate seats — all Republicans facing liberal darlings. Christine Todd Whitman barely lost to Bill Bradley, Lynn Martin gave Paul Simon a run for his money. Yet 1990 was not the "Year of the Woman," because all the women were Republicans on the NOW gang's enemies list.

What it comes down to is that the real meaning of 1992 was "The Year of the Liberal, Democrat, Radical, Feminist Woman." How else to explain such embarrassments as Barbara Boxer, sounding like a breathless airhead every time she speaks, or Carol Mosley-Braun, a confirmed welfare cheat? They got elected on their gender, not their qualifications.

Mind you, I have nothing against women in politics. I come from a state



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that elected the first woman to the Senate in her own right — Nancy Landon Kassebaum of Kansas. I even voted for her. But, because she's a Republican, Alf Landon's daughter is a mere footnote. I just object to the brainless hypocrisy practiced by the NOW gang and the media.

The second point about the Texas race is that the media, aided and abetted by Democratic spin doctors, is playing this as Kruger's fault for being such a lousy candidate. He was, but that misses the point.

In 1991, Dick Thornburgh blew a 40-point lead and lost to Harris Wofford in Pennsylvania. It was trumpeted as a "wake up call for Washington," because Wofford ran on a nebulous promise to institute national health care. George Bush's presidency was in serious peril to the nightly newscasters.

In 1993, Kay Bailey Hutchison runs on a platform of opposing the massive tax increases proposed by President Clinton, trounces her opponent, and it's just because Kruger was

a lousy campaigner? There is clearly a double standard going on here.

Hutchison's victory (the second Senate win by the GOP since November) means that people are furious at Bill Clinton for reneging on nearly every economic promise he made in the campaign. Last November, Clinton was a "New Democrat" who would cut spending, reform welfare, not raise taxes on the middle class and keep our defense establishment strong. Five months into his Presidency, Clinton is raising spending, raising taxes on energy, hiking income taxes on the middle class and has appointed a HHS Secretary opposed to welfare reform.

He spent his time trying to get gays into the military and having his hair cut for \$200 on the tarmac at LAX. He also is fending off a major scandal over the use of the FBI in firing White House Travel Office Staff. In short, he's been doing everything except what he was elected to do.

Hutchison's win means that minorities are unhappy as well. Possibly enraged over Clinton's shabby treatment of Lani Guinier last week, the anticipated huge black vote never materialized.

So what? What does it mean? It means that Bob Dole has one more vote against socialized medicine, higher taxes and bad nominees in his pocket. It means the White House has to acknowledge the growing negative sentiments of the public towards taxes and health plans and radical left-wing kooks in key positions.

But, once again, it is a perfect example of liberal hypocrisy, and those of you who scoff at phrases like "Liberal media/cultural elite" would do well to turn your eyes to Texas.

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