

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

**Épreuve ESP
Explication d'un texte
extrait du programme**

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Explication de texte

Buchanan, John, "The Republicans' amnesia", *The New York Times*, August 13, 1984, p. 2.

Explication de faits de langue

Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte.

WASHINGTON — President Reagan kicked off his re-election campaign with a declaration that the Democrats are “going so far left, they’ve left America.” I’m concerned that our party – the Republican Party – is moving so far in the direction of the New Right that it is abandoning its own best traditions.

Traditionally, the Republican Party has stood for civil rights for minority members, equal rights for women and constitutional liberties for all Americans. Above all, ***the Republican*** has opposed government encroachment on individual rights.

The Republican tradition was defined by Abraham Lincoln in the struggles to preserve the Union and abolish slavery. This tradition was refined by both the right and left wings of our party – by conservatives such as William Howard Taft, Robert A. Taft and Barry M. Goldwater as well as liberals such as Theodore Roosevelt, Wendell L. Willkie and Nelson A. Rockefeller.

In the past, the debate between liberal and conservative Republicans concentrated upon the role of government in providing social services. Neither liberals nor conservatives challenged the Grand Old Party’s historic commitment to constitutional liberties for all and equal opportunities for blacks and women. Only the New Right has challenged these traditions – and claimed a divine mandate for doing so.

There is no stronger testimony to the abandonment of traditional Republican Party values than the possibility that Republicans will be swept out of office this year on a tidal wave of women’s votes, including the votes of business and professional women. Lest we forget, it was the Republican Party that supported extending the right to vote to women. And passage of the 19th Amendment – which gave women the right to vote – ushered in the Republican era of the 1920’s. Republicans once led the way on the Equal Rights Amendment but now have fallen by the wayside. The 1980 Republican platform was the first in 40 years not to support the Equal Rights Amendment. If the Republican Party wants to close the “gender gap,” let’s put the E.R.A. back in our platform instead of puzzling over how to put down Geraldine A. Ferraro. The party of Abraham Lincoln is also in danger of forgetting its roots on the issue of civil rights. The civil rights legislation of the 1950’s and 1960’s was overwhelmingly supported by Congressional Republicans and enacted into law over the filibusters of Southern Democrats. I can still recall the eloquent defense of civil rights legislation by two Republicans from Lincoln’s home state – Everett M. Dirksen and John B. Anderson. Yet now those Republicans attempting to provide leadership on such issues as voting rights and tax exemptions for segregated private schools are condemned and even invited out of the party by the radical right-wing leader Terry Dolan of the

National Conservative Political Action Committee. How far the Republican Party has strayed from its traditions is revealed in its unseemly embrace of the ultra-fundamentalist right wing, including the Moral Majority, Christian Voice and the recently organized American Coalition for Traditional Values, whose leaders were honored not long ago by the White House. Much as these organizations love to talk about "traditional values," they threaten Americans' fundamental constitutional liberties, especially First Amendment guarantees of religious freedom and separation of church and state.

Apparently preferring theocracy to democracy, Tim LaHaye, chairman of the American Coalition for Traditional Values, has said: "The problem with America is... we do not have enough of God's ministers running our country." The fundamentalist right declares that its positions on a host of political, social, economic and foreign policy issues are the only views that are "pro-Christian." According to these evangelists-turned-politicians, good Christians must support an increase in defense spending and oppose the Equal Rights Amendment, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Education. And if you disagree, you're "anti-God" and "anti-family." This moral McCarthyism not only extends the trend toward abandoning the party's heritage but also threatens to suffocate free debate over the future of Republicanism. That's why *it* is so important for mainstream Republicans – liberals and conservatives alike – to speak up for our party's traditional support of civil rights for minorities, equal rights for women and religious liberty for people of all faiths. If we don't speak up now, the party of Abraham Lincoln may be hijacked by Tim LaHaye and Terry Dolan.