

Weasel dialectics

DOUGLAS BELL, DECEMBER 6, 2008 AT 3:59 PM EST

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Among the esteemed bloggers on this site I make no bones about my status as a decidedly junior partner.

I'm really only good for two things: the occasional blinding glimpse of the obvious and/or a couple of (provisional) laughs.

I have only cursory access to insiders and as to interpreting poll numbers, whether it be Ekos, Nanos or Ipsos, I tend to dizziness and occasional nausea.

That said, in the face of probity, reason and objectivity I want it known that Michael Ignatieff, for all his talent, brains, and accomplishments (no sneer quotes), is getting on my nerves. His cautious and constant parsing of his “support” for the coalition is an exercise in weasel dialectics.

“I want to make it clear that this caucus is as one in maintaining the credibility of that dissuasive instrument”: Isn't exactly “we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets.”

Arguments will rage for generations as to whether the Liberals were right to enter into a partnership with the NDP. But, history will also note that in that moment, one candidate for the leadership of the Liberal Party spoke up with brio and conviction and one, er, didn't.

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Phillip Crawley, Publisher