

major terrorist attack on the U.S. before Sept. 11 occurred.

- Dick Gephardt: The former leader of the House Democrats could be the ideal person to be the trade representative. He has consistently articulated the need for an integrated approach to foreign trade agreements, with due weight given to labor and environmental standards. This could be a critical step in broadening our approach to international affairs.

- Bob Graham: The current senior senator from Florida has questioned the Bush administration's priorities in fighting terrorism since Sept. 11. He believes that international terrorism is more of an immediate threat than Iraq. Graham could be an effective head of Homeland Security.

- Howard Dean: The former Vermont governor brings with him substantial executive experience, having served over 11 years as governor. A physician, he has offered creative and practical proposals to try to provide more Americans health insurance. He could be a great secretary of Health and Human Services.

- John Edwards: The North Carolina senator is a former trial lawyer who has the reputation of fighting for the little guy. Many people feel the current Attorney General John Ashcroft has not struck the proper balance between civil liberties and national security. He could be just what the country is looking for in an attorney general.

- John Kerry: The Massachusetts Democrat and former war hero could be a great secretary of state. Like Colin Powell, he would command respect as a decorated veteran. However as a Democrat, he might aggressively pursue other critical international objectives (such as combating global warming) that are crucial in securing a safe future.

I believe the presidential election of 2004 will be very different than the last one: citizens will be less focused on personality and cultural differences and more on substantive issues.

If that is true, the Democrats should anticipate this shift. Emphasizing party unity may reassure a nervous country and thus increase the chances of victory in the general election.

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