

# **JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

## **MONDAY - 06/16/08**

**The amount of doublespeak was both impressive and mind-numbing.**

**HOW DID TERM “*DOUBLESPEAK*” ORIGINATE?**

*Merriam-Webster*: “Language used to deceive usually through concealment or misrepresentation of truth.” Evasive, ambiguous.

Words that not only have a political implication, but are intended to impose a desirable mental attitude upon the person using them.

*Origin (Wikipedia)*: Early 1950s; incorrectly attributed to George Orwell, but the term did not appear in his 1949 novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. He did coin newspeak, oldspeak, and doublethink.

In the early days it was considered wrong to construct words to disguise meaning; now, it is an accepted and established practice.

*Analogous*: “*Double talk*” (a mixture of real English and gibberish) has been used in a comedic or satiric way since the vaudeville days.

*2007 NTCE Doublespeak Award Winner Alberto Gonzales*: “Senator, I have in my mind a recollection as to knowing as to some of these United States attorneys. There are two that I do not recall knowing in my mind what I understood to be the reasons for the removal.”

**Conventional Wisdom: Doublespeak = Incongruity & distorted reality**

**M of Z: Politicians too often create a false verbal map of the world**