



JIM C – QUIZ OF THE WEEK MONDAY – 09/29/08

The *Blue Dog Democrats* believe that the proposed \$700 Billion Bailout is wrong – the burgeoning national debt is the key issue.

HOW DID THE TERM “*BLUE DOG DEMOCRATS*” ORIGINATE?

Definition: A coalition of moderate and conservative Democratic Party members of the United States House of Representatives that promote fiscal conservatism and accountability. The *Blue Dog Coalition* was formed in 1994 during the 104th Congress to give more conservative members a unified voice.

Origin: The term comes from the South's longtime description of a party loyalist as one who would vote for a yellow dog if it were on the ballot as a Democrat. Former Texas Democratic Rep. Pete Geren stated that in the years leading up to the 1994 election, party members had been "choked blue" by those Democrats from the extreme left. Thus, he is credited with coining the term.

History: The *Blue Dogs* are viewed by some as a continuation of the socially conservative wing of the Democratic Party prominent during the Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson administrations.

Conventional Wisdom: Blue Dogs = Fiscal Stability & Accountability

Moment of Zen: Budget Deficits → Dollar Devaluation → Inflation
As our national debt grows, our global influence declines