

## NEWS NOTES

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For the past few weeks my eyes have been glued to the television, watching the antics in Washington DC. I have studied the charts of some of the players and I want to share some astrology about this anxiety-producing situation. For many years I have referred to Robert Hand's book entitled "Planets in Transit." Although this text is written for individuals, his commentary can be used to describe mundane situations for entities such as the USA, Democratic Party, Republican Party, President Obama and House Speaker John Boehner. Following are some neutral comments about the astrological charts for these players. They do not necessarily reflect my political views. By the way, I understand that one in four Americans has fallen sick recently as a result of watching these volatile political proceedings in Washington, D.C.

To begin with, on January 4, 2011 there was a Solar Eclipse at 13° Capricorn opposing the USA Sun at 13° Cancer. Robert Hand says, "Sometimes this can be a time of failure, when you realize that certain efforts have not worked out and that you must start over." On the day of this eclipse, the new USA Congress was sworn in. Whenever something important happens on the day of a solar eclipse, the energy is unusual, and the future may change throughout the next year. That is why this Congress has been acting so strangely. Then on July 1, 2011 there was a Solar Eclipse at 9° Cancer, just a few degrees away from the USA's Sun at 13° Cancer. This is why there have been so many twists and turns in the process of legislation to raise the USA debt limit!

The USA has been experiencing its Saturn Return at 14° Libra. According to Robert Hand, "During a Saturn Return you are pruning your life of everything that is not relevant to what you really are. You may experience a sense of loss, for elements of your life are coming to an end now."

The chart of the Republican Party shows a Cancer Sun just like that of the USA. This party seems more likely to change the destiny of the USA. Its Tea Party-aligned members have transformed the Republican Party as well as the USA with their philosophy of spending cuts and more. The Republican Party is experiencing Jupiter conjunct Pluto at 3° Taurus, and Robert Hand describes this transit as "making extraordinary efforts to gain success" and having a "tremendous drive to gain power."

Transiting Neptune is making a sextile to this party's Pluto, and Robert Hand says, "Now you can do voluntarily what you would be forced to do at some other period of your life." Eventually, increasing the debt limit of the USA would cause extreme financial troubles. It looks like the Bill to raise the debt ceiling that was passed in the House of Representatives today is helping to diffuse what would be an extreme financial problem for the USA in the coming years.

Transiting Saturn at 11° Libra is conjunct the Republican Party's Ascendant now. Robert Hand says, "During this time your responsibilities will increase considerably and you will try to eliminate everything in your life that is not necessary to fulfilling them. Old tasks that have never been completed must be finished now."

The chart of the Democratic Party shows a Taurus Sun with a Moon at 28° Aquarius conjuncting the USA Moon at 27° Aquarius. The Moon in the chart represents the citizens of the USA of all ages and situations. Transiting Neptune over the Moon (by sign change) is representing a spiritual and moral shift in the USA – kind of a dissolving effect that the citizens are seeing in the economics of their cities and states.

The Democratic Party's chart has 29° Aquarius on the Descendant. Transiting Neptune has been going over this point since the beginning of the year. Robert Hand says, "Completely unexpected events are likely to happen which you won't be prepared for, and your opponent may use underhanded tactics that could hurt your position badly."

President Obama's chart shows a Leo Sun. He seems to love the stage and his Gemini Moon makes him a great orator. Speaking of Neptune, since the beginning of the year it has been making a wide square to his Moon at 3° of Gemini. This is a time when he is somewhat fragile and may not want to be around negative influences. During this Debt Ceiling Crisis, he has stood in the background as if he realizes he would weaken if he were to be out in the front and in the crossfire of the emotionally charged members of Congress. Uranus is squaring his Venus at 1° of Cancer, and during this period relationships are unstable and volatile. Saturn is making a sextile to his Sun. Robert Hand says, "How well you are able to deal with the future depends largely what you do now."

John Boehner's Sun is 25° of Scorpio squaring President Obama's Uranus at 25° of Leo. There will always be some competition and volatile energy between them. Pluto is opposing John's Uranus at 4° of Cancer, and according to Robert Hand, "This transit represents a period of massive changes, which you share with almost everyone of about the same age." John is a Baby Boomer born in 1949. Robert Hand says of this transit, "Many elements of your life will pass away suddenly and be gone with little or no warning, even elements that you have felt were a permanent part of your life." Right now John Boehner has upstaged President Obama because Jupiter is stationary and trining his Mars at 11° of Virgo. Robert Hand says, "There is an easy flow of energy that enables you to act much more effectively than usual and to take initiatives that demand foresight, careful planning and considerable self-confidence. Almost any initiative that you take now will work out as you want it to." The stars have been shining on the Speaker of the House!

*Charts:*

USA Sibly Chart 7/4/1776 @ 4:53 PM in Philadelphia, PA

Republican Party 7/6/1854 @ 12:01 PM New York, NY

Democratic Party 5/13/1792 @ 11:56 AM in New York, NY

President Obama 8/4/1961 @ 7:24 PM in Honolulu, HI

John Boehner 11/17/1949 No Time No City

Post Script August 2, 2011:

Today around 11:00 AM MST, as Mercury turns Retrograde at 1° Virgo in the evening, President Obama signed the Debt Ceiling Bill that was passed in the House of Representatives on 8/1/11 and the Senate on 8/2/11. Mercury is at 1° Virgo opposing Neptune in Pisces today. We are vulnerable to error, confusion and deception. Around this time, someone could go back on his or her word. Mercury will turn direct at 18° Leo on August 26<sup>th</sup>, and on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> Mercury will return to the degree on which he turned retrograde. Until that date, there will be more tension in Congress and an aura of mystery in Washington D.C.