



OPINION

The rise of the Tea Party

In the infamous 1976 movie "Network," actor Peter Finch portrays a TV anchorman named Howard Beasle who rants to listeners to get up, go to their windows and shout out they aren't going to take it anymore. Based on the ground swell movement of the Tea party in 2010, Howard Beasle could run for President today and win.

I believe the Tea Party has become one of the most powerful and extraordinary movements in recent American political history. What's been truly amazing about watching this movement grow is how it rose despite being derided and min-

imized and, quite frankly, one of the most disrespected movements in American history. Yet, despite being widely ignored, belittled and ostracized by political, academic, and media elites, the Tea Party movement has grown stronger and stronger.

Back in 2009, I wrote in my daily blog at www.Grandich.com that come

The Grandich Letter



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the 2010 general elections, more congressional and senate incumbents would be voted out percentage wise than at any other time in history. While some will argue the Tea Party is more aligned with Republicans than Democrats, it has caused division within the Republican Party and caused serious losses for the Democrats. Even within the Repub-

lican Party, the younger candidates seem to be trying to distinguish themselves from the general GOP by being more conservative and in line with the ideals of the Tea Party.

Sir Arthur W. Pinero's character Horace in the play Sweet Lavender said, "Where there is tea, there is hope." A U.S. President recently was elected on "hope." The Tea Party believes that his kind of hope could be a death blow to their vision of the American way and it appears more and more Americans are agreeing with them.