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# Inglis: Obama's strength is articulating his vision

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WASHINGTON - Whenever U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis visits elementary schools, he divides classes into a House group and a Senate group then picks a president to help illustrate how a bill becomes a law.

Sometimes, he said, he picks a female or a black student as president to remind them that it's possible.

Now, they don't need that reminder. They have a living example in President Barack Obama.

"He's really going to change the way black kids see themselves, and the way white folks see black folks, because this is the president of the United States of America, leading the free world, who is a very bright, articulate fellow," said Inglis, R-S.C.

"What's going to help a lot is that he is tremendously eloquent, and that's an important part of leadership - to be able to articulate a vision in such a way that it can be followed, because you have laid out where we should go. Somewhere along the way, the Bush Administration decided they didn't need to be communicating anymore."

Inglis further criticized former Vice President Dick Cheney's answer of "So?" when asked about a majority of American people opposing the war in Iraq.

"That's not enough," Inglis said.

"If you want to lead, explain where you want to take us. Articulate a vision, and we'll decide if we want to follow," he added.



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U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis, center, and his wife, MaryAnn, mingle at the South Carolina Presidential Inaugural Ball, held at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Inglis praised Obama's election as a step forward in race relations.

"In a fallen world, there will always be the problem of hatred in the heart of mankind. That's reality," Inglis said. "We will not have fought the war against racism and won, but this will have been a major battle."

The congressman went on to explain the need

for collaboration - taking the best ideas from opposing parties to come up with a solution - rather than compromise, where someone wins and someone loses.

He said he hopes the Obama Administration is willing to collaborate with Republicans on energy, the economy and health care.

Regarding the first topic, for instance, Inglis believes that planning a better energy future would improve national security, create more jobs and clean up the environment. The congressman also would like to see the income tax reduced and replaced with a tax on carbon emissions.

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