

Yankee Steve's Column for the week of July 30, 2009

A Bully in the White House

Socialism is prompted by one idea more than any other. President Barack Obama gave vent to it recently when he was interviewed by Meredith Vieira of NBC News.

What do I mean? While the blood of righteous Abel was still warm and cried out to God from the earth, the first murderer asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Socialists in their temerity go further and ask, "Is my brother not my keeper?" Isn't that what the French were asking when they followed our revolution with their own version, who forsook the wisdom of the founders of America and opted for Socialism and the dream of economic equality. "The moment has come to found the Republic of Equals . . . In a true society there should be neither rich nor poor." [Francois-Noel Babeuf, 1760-97] Socialism is summed up in one word, "equality." I must have what you have even if it costs me my freedom.

Obama is more French than he is American. If need be he will force his way of thinking on the rest of us just as the French revolutionaries did on their contemporaries. People are arguing about Obama's birthplace; was it Kenya or Hawaii? No matter, ideologically Obama is not now and presumably never has been an American. That is just as, if not more, important than his birthplace. We have placed a radical Socialist in the White House a follower of Babeuf, a herald for the claptrap of the French revolution. The debate over healthcare proves my point.

Only a radical leftist would try to install a health care system that will be as inefficient and corrupt as the Legal Support Corporation (LSC). Have you heard about the way they squander monies sent them which were intended to provide legal aid for the poor? And what did the Socialists in Congress do when this came out into the open? They recently voted them more money, another fifty million! But you say that the one-pay Government Operated Health Care (GOHC) which is used in other countries should be used here. Are you sure? Mark Steyn writing in the *National Review* says that it takes two years in Great Britain to get a hip replacement?

And why should we vote in GOHC when we know that this will lead bring about the end of private insurers who have ensured for us the best medical care in the world bar none.

What Happened to Privacy?

Americans believe not only in *laissez-faire* economics (There is such a thing as a market, and we should leave it alone so that it can operate freely without government interference, or private monopolies who would if they could fix prices); Americans take this one step further. They also believe that people should be allowed to operate freely. And apparently Obama does not accept that dictum. If you get in his way you had better be prepared to take it on the chin. Step aside Tony Soprano there is a new kid on the block; one who believes that his understanding of the

common good is what is good, and that anything other than that is what is bad, and if that is the case he has been sent to save us from the bad. {This is called a “messianic complex.”} So what is good and what is bad according to Obama?

Good is the impossible dream, economic equality. Bad is permitting society to act as if it is just for the rich, middle-class, and the poor to live side-by-side in the same society. Let’s get into the head of these utopians. They believe that any society that permits some to be poor or middle-class is an unfair society, and as such it must be kicked into the street. Revolution must come.

Showing atypical boldness when it comes to Obama, Vieira cornered Obama about his readiness to, as she said, “punish” (you know like a bully) those who had worked hard to be successful, who would under his system have to pay the medical insurance bills of other citizens or those of their employees even if that ruins their business. Obama, who is no great thinker, just a smooth talker, began to squirm and said that he was not using force when he called for a program in which employers and employees had to subscribe or else. (Watching him reminded me of President Bill Clinton who would not admit that he had sex with Monica Lewinsky because sex means different things to different people.) Obama insisted that he only wants Americans to act as a “community,” or should he have said “commune?” In that one sentence the Obama revealed that he is a Socialist, and that he is ready to force people to comply with his understanding of what social justice has to mean. He will do what is necessary to rid of what he considers bad.

Private Enterprise

Vieira said that the President was using “force” in order to bring about what has been called Health Care Reform. I would suggest that if Obama gets his way Health Care Reform should be called “Health Care Revolution” which means it will very likely bring about the end of private insurance. But then again I must ask, will it? I am not so sure even though I know that that is what the Democrats would like to see happen. Rep. Barney Frank [D-MA] has admitted as much. Does anyone believe that Obama will use the same physicians we use when his system goes into effect, doctors who graduated last in their class?

Recently on the ABC during Obama’s special on health care the president was asked, "Mr. President will you and your family give up your current health care program and join the new universal health care program that the rest of us will be on? Obama ignored the question, refusing to answer it. A number of senators were asked the same question and their response was, “We will think about it.” So far we haven’t heard from them.

Economist Adam Smith [1723-90] still has followers. I am one of them. I proudly associate myself with him. Smith successfully promoted the idea that making a profit is a good thing and that self-interest, which prompts one to compete with others for a share of the market, must not be thought of as inherently wrong. That kind of thinking grates on Socialists, but nothing disturbs them more than to discover that certain enterprising individuals have devised ways to provide excellent health care and make a profit to boot. They hate the idea that health care providers are allowed a share of the market. If our society was just this would come to an end because it is so mercenary. But is it? Yes it is, if you look out at the world through a lens ground in the workshop of Karl Marx.

The Bully Has a Pulpit

Obama knows that he has the right to use what has commonly been called a bully-pulpit, but he uses it like no one else before him. Obama went so far as to even misinform the public when he said in a news conference that 47 million people were uninsured in America. That is simply not true. He also failed to mention that many uninsured are wealthy enough to provide insurance for themselves.

Obama has not only used his advantageous position to present us with his health care program; he has tried to push it down our throats. Taxpayers now foot the bill for actors who daily, if not hourly, appear in our homes through the medium of television service announcements. They want us to think that they are real people, who will fare better under a government-operated insurance system. The facts are that they are fictional as are their situations which are designed to elicit pity from voters who think that the word “force” is out of place whenever the government **makes** you do what serves the common good. Socialists believe that we are not responsible for ourselves, and that the community must see to it that we are given what everyone else has. The following quote from the pen of historian Alexis de Tocqueville [1805-59] says it all.

There is indeed a manly and legitimate passion for equality which rouses in all men a desire to be strong and respected. This passion tends to elevate the little man to the rank of the great. But the human heart also nourishes a debased taste for equality, which leads the weak to want to drag the strong down to their level and which induces men to prefer equality in servitude to inequality in freedom.

Conclusion

Now why is any of this important? It is important because as I have said before socialized medicine is just the tip of the iceberg. The moment I conclude that it is the responsibility of the government to take care of my health, that government has assumed in respect of me an unnatural position. It has become a caretaker government. The words of President Thomas Jefferson do not go far enough, “Any government that is big enough to give you what you want is big enough to take it away.” Any government that is a caretaker government will take not only what it has given, but what it ours by right. It all comes back to the lust for equality that can be found residing in Socialists. And in the long run, it will have a destructive effect on our free society as a whole.

Ever yours,

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Postscript:

Summary of the opinions expressed recently pertaining to any type of GOHP:

- If the government takes over the health care industry the quality of medical care in America will sink to European depths or to something even worse.
- Any type of GOHP will not be self-sustaining. In addition to fees charged to the taxpayer it will require an annual bail-out running into billions and billions of dollars.
- The plan that is now being kicked around Congress was created by the far left. It is a Soviet [Rep. Henry Waxman D-CA] style plan.
- Obama wants what Waxman wants. To accomplish his goals he will cajole as many people as he has to so that we will go along with his thinking. We see, do we not, that the Socialist however mild mannered he is, or seemingly erudite, who may have even taught Constitutional law, will prove out as an authoritarian or in common terms, a bully. It is the nature of the beast. Socialists always resort to using force.
- Socialized medicine will be followed by the slow or even rapid decline of the private sector. Therefore over the doorway of Socialism I place the words to Dante's hell,
"Abandon all hope, ye who enter here."