

Yankee Steve's Column
for the week of September 10, 2009

Beyond Repair

“You can't fix stupid.” This remark was made popular by St. Louis broadcaster, Jim White, takes me back to the other night.

I happened on a FM radio program called “Reality Now.” It airs on a station that depending on what time of day it is you can go from country to communist to creepy, a station that I am glad to say can't be heard in every part of town, one that has hosted such illustrious characters as Bar-room Bob (no kidding that is his name). If you listen at the right time you can also find a regurgitated Leninist thing called Democracy Now! The latter proves that socialism/communism is alive and well in America. It can actually be heard, if we can believe the communist who heads it, on 300 stations. I would remind my readers that Communists lie.

But what about fixing stupid? Well that has to do with the host of Reality Now. He caught my attention because I could tell immediately that he was a liberal. His voice had that smug air of superiority we have come to associate with American liberalism. He wanted you to know that he was smart. Well, let's give him the benefit of the doubt. However “smart” is not a synonym for sagacious. The philosopher Socrates distinguished between learning which was in abundance in old Athens, and wisdom which was in short supply.

To show that liberals are lacking in wisdom I would bring up the fact that they continue to believe that a halcyon existence awaits us. And that to achieve this existence all we have to do is follow the liberal line of thinking. But should I listen to them knowing that it was the liberals who told us to believe in Obama. He raised his staff and the waters did not part. His administration according to one expert is about to implode.

One thing is certain Obama would never have made a good boxer. He has been caught flat-footed too many times. The same is true of his soldiering. He has shot himself in the foot more times than I can remember. It seems as if his off-handed remarks have been prepared for him by Joe Biden.

When listening to the host of Reality Now I realized that he was using air time in order to complain about the way in which conservatives have opposed a national health care system. He was in fact wringing his hands over it. Why, oh, why do conservatives oppose a national health care system which could be operated by our beneficent government?

Does it fall to me to explain why conservatives oppose a national health care system? I will do so but not because I think that stupid can be fixed. Liberals, to use an idea gleaned from cartoonist Al Capp, live in square houses, eat square donuts, and they peer out at you from square eyes. They will not change their perspective. They are dumb enough to be “illiberal.” Now if that were not bad enough they are self-righteous, too. The light shining from their halo is blinding, is it not?

“The principle feature of American liberalism is sanctimoniousness. By loudly denouncing all bad things - war and hunger and date rape - liberals testify to their own terrific goodness. More important, they promote themselves to membership in a self-selecting elite of those who care deeply about such things. It's a kind of natural aristocracy, and the wonderful thing about this aristocracy is that you don't have to be brave, smart, strong or even lucky to join it, you just have to be liberal.” [P.J. O'Rourke]

I will now explain why we should oppose a national health care system. The next time a sanctimonious liberal wonders about why conservatives oppose a national health care system my readers will know what to say. This is as it should be because my readers are smarter than the average.

Reason Number 1: Matrimony

A government-operated health care (GOHC) is socialism, and socialism, when it is true to its nature, creates a relationship with the government that is unhealthy and different from anything in American before it. In many respects this new relationship will resemble an arranged marriage, one that can never end in divorce no matter how abusive or unfaithful your new spouse becomes. Let me explain.

We must never forget that health care is not like other things; things such as food stamps or emergency housing. As a matter of fact most Americans do not concern themselves about the way in which the government has issued food stamps, or the way in which it has paid the rent of families in distress. We tend to think of these things as emergency measures. On the other hand a GOHC plan creates a permanent relationship between citizens and their government, a relationship that in many respects can resemble a marriage.

Now I hasten to add that no one should wed the government; that would prove to be an unhealthy, especially because the government has not given us the right to divorce it which will likely lead to an abuse relationship.

“Any government that is big enough to give you what you want is big enough to take it away.”
[Thomas Jefferson]

Marriage is for better or for worse. However, when you marry the government it will always be for worse. All that the government gives you will come with strings attached. You will feel like a kept woman.

Reason Number 2: Freedom

Socialists believe that no government can be thought of as just if it does not put an end to economic inequality. Everyone must have what everyone else has.

If the government is just every one will have health insurance whether they want it or not. Injustice cannot be tolerated. It is justice for all. In other words the government will, if it is just,

take care of you. A just government will always be a *caretaker* government. But does it stop there? In no way; **a caretaker government will at some point become a takeover government!**

Once the government takes responsibility for the health of its citizens it will demand the right to interfere in their private lives. Cherished privacy will become a thing of the past. The government will have to interfere in our lives because health costs can be effectively reduced by preventative maintenance. Will there be a day when something resembling storm troopers will be allowed to enter your home with a search warrant to see if you have been smoking in front of your children or because it has been rumored that you have downed too many bottles of Chardonnay or have gorged on too many bags of potato chips.

Going beyond that the government may suggest the early termination of the infirmed in order to save money. Health care may be rationed. Who is to say that that will not or that that has not happened already? The cost involved with end of life care is very expensive.

It has been estimated that up to one million senior citizens in Britain have been denied the latest pharmaceutical technology which may have prolonged their lives.

Recently the Veterans Administration came under attack because it was circulating a booklet that hinted at the possibility of veterans leaving this world ahead of schedule; veterans whose medical costs are paid for by the government. Fox News has followed the story with considerable diligence.

Reason Number 3: The Free Market

In our country at the present time a number of health insurers have successfully provided subscribers with more than adequate coverage. This is a thriving industry which employs hundreds of thousands of workers. Therefore a GOHC represents a desire on the part of the government to compete with the free market system. As I understand it this is not what a government is supposed to do. English historian Lord Acton [1834-1902] said, "There are some things that a government cannot do." The United States should not go into business. It is not equipped to and will never be able to effectively operate a business, prime example, the U.S. Postal Service.

James Madison said that we should separate the state from the church because the congress was not equipped to deal with questions dealing with metaphysics, and that it did not have the time to do so. It had its own business to attend to; it could not attend to the business of the church. Religion would prove to be a distraction. Not only that, if the government became involved in religion it would be bad for religion. Madison suggested that we take a look at what has happened to churches when they have gotten mixed up with politics. In language that is often quoted out of context by liberals he said that religion, when connected to the state, became a miserable spectacle. Could not the same thing be said about health care?

Caracas, Venezuela had the finest gynecological hospital in South America. After an Obama-like government, one with a GOHC plan, became involved in health care, the once proud institution of competition and capitalism, lost its preeminent physicians. Needy women began to

seek help elsewhere. If America goes into the hospital business we will follow in the footsteps of other nations whose health care systems are not on a par with ours, and anyone that suggests that is has been misinformed.

The government is not competent to go into the medical insurance business. Medicare and Medicaid prove my point; they are headed for bankruptcy.

Reason Number 4: Taxes

A GOHC plan will bring about an increase in taxes. **No GOHC plan anywhere in the world is self-sustaining.** We will have to pay a health stamp (dues) as the Brits do, and we will have to support the health care system with our taxes. A bailout of the health care system will be needed for each and every year it is in force. Hopefully the bailout of General Motors will prove to be a one time incident. However, going in we must know that a GOHC plan will have to work differently. Do we understand that? Nothing is free! Taxes will go up; it is inevitable. All GOHC plans being used around the world are dependent on revenues.

Since nothing inflates at the rate that health care does, and because health care never has had a down turn like housing or manufacturing, we will be forced to deal with the effect that inflation can and will have on our taxes. Taxes will continue to rise year-in-and-year-out if the government opts for a GOHC plan.

Note:

There is only so much money to go around. It is because the Europeans have gotten involved in health care that they cannot afford to protect themselves. The American taxpayer has had to pay for NATO. That would indicate that if we have to bail out a GOHC plan on an annual basis then we will have less for defense. You can't have an adequate defense bill and a GOHC plan. Not even America can do it all!

Can you picture it - the Pentagon competing for the same tax monies as hospitals?

Conclusion

Melissa Clouthier said, "I am sick of the health care debate I wonder if under Obama's plan, there will be a drug that helps people deal with stupid politicians. I bet they give out free Xanax."

I think they shouldn't bother because stupid can't be fixed or cured!

Ever yours,

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