

Yankee Steve's Column
for the Week of August 19, 2010

What Does Missouri's Proposition C Mean for America?

National health care means combining the efficiency of the Postal Service with the compassion of the I.R.S and the cost accounting of the Pentagon. I favor restoring and reviving a free market health care system. I recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use, and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. Individuals should not be penalized for not buying health insurance or tax code inequities. [Jonathan Dine, Libertarian candidate for the U.S. Senate from Missouri]

“Liberty,” Friedrich Hayek said “is the absence of coercion.” Principles like that resonate with Missouri voters. Recently, in a statewide election the people of the “Show Me” state showed the Obama White House a thing or two when they voted “Yes” on Prop C. What does this mean? It means that a resounding three out of four voters in MO said “NO” to socialized medicine or what we now refer to as Obamacare.

Under Obamacare rules, everyone will have to buy medical insurance. If they refuse the tax goons will make you wish you had knuckled under. What do we learn from this? We learn that entitlement programs are always accompanied by enforcement programs. Missourians chose liberty when they voted “Yes” on Prop C, and I salute them. They would have also voted against human cloning some time ago had they not been scammed by a surreptitious gang of semanticists on the left. This time the voters understood that a “yes” vote meant they were saying “no” to Obamacare and “yes” to freedom.

The Commerce Clause

The U.S. Constitution is like the Holy Bible which some have described as “a ball of wax.” If you want to make an impression on it, that is make it say something you want it to say, even if it does not in fact say that, you can do that easily enough. Professional scholars call this **eis**-egesis as opposed to **exegesis**. The eis-egete reads into the Bible what does not naturally come *from* or *out* of the Bible.

Likewise the Constitution can be wrongly interpreted. This is why there are a number of people who believe in what is called a “Living Constitution,” a Constitution that can be adjusted according to an agenda. This implies that they do not in fact believe in Constitutionalism itself and have rejected the new world concept of a written Constitution.

Those who defend Obamacare and the coercive measures needed to enforce it have seized on the Commerce Clause that is to be found in the Constitution Article 1, section 8, Clause 3. It is the softest part of the ball of wax.

The Commerce clause states that the Congress of the United States shall have the power **“to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”**

Seizing on the word “regulate,” which when it was first used by the founders meant only “to make uniform,” the proponents of socialized medicine think that the Congress has the right to force us to buy health insurance.

We must not read too much into the word regulate which many politicians have done because that allows them the right to take control of our lives. One wag has said when it comes to the Commerce clause power seekers have **“hit the jackpot.”**

Among other things the Commerce clause was designed to prevent the various states from charging tariffs that could have been levied on interstate commerce. Coastal states needed the federal government to help regulate or make uniform commerce so that they could prevent smuggling. The Commerce clause is needed.

Congress has to have the final say over *interstate* commerce because in that way it can insure the free flow of goods and services throughout the country. However, the Commerce clause does not entitle the government to force anyone to enter into a business contract like buying health insurance. That would be the same as saying that the federal government has the right to punish you for not doing something. An idea like that would shred the Constitution.

The Tenth Amendment and Federalism

The Commerce clause should be read alongside the tenth amendment to the Constitution.

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Obama and his minions who crafted his healthcare bill, and then slipped it through Congress, are the sworn enemies of Federalism which says that the states have the right to enact laws that cannot be overruled by Washington because such laws are not covered by the Constitution. This is why the states should have the right to outlaw abortion-on-demand because abortion is not designated in the Constitution as under federal purview, thus it is reserved as a state issue.

If Obama were a Conservative he would favor states rights but he is nothing of the kind; he is a Socialist which means that he has a knee-jerk reaction each time he hears the word “Federalism.” Obama would like to increase the power of the central government at the expense of states’ rights because the lust for centralized power is in the DNA of every Socialist.

Do you see what is at stake here; Proposition C signals that America is at a crossroads again. If Socialists have their way Federalism will receive yet another blow. We simply must hold on to Federalism. It was a gift to the world from men who knew that the power of the central government has to be limited.

If we lose Federalism we will lose much of our personal freedoms.

Ever yours,

Yankee Steve Cakouros

oldlineconservative.com