

An interesting exercise, at the very least. Incidentally, Snopes' last update on Obama-as-Antichrist was several months ago. And the hundreds of commenters at LittleGreenFootballs mostly quibble about the historical status of Hebrew and Aramaic. Few of them even attempt to refute the actual linguistics put forth in this video. And even if the video *is* mistaken, that doesn't mean Obama *isn't* the Antichrist!

Did Jesus Give Us the Name of the Antichrist?

by PPSimmons, 27 July 2009

You will want to ponder this one from beginning to end. See the evidence for yourself—right out of the Hebrew Dictionary and the Word of God. Pretty amazing. Enjoy.

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raCRSjnT0Wc&NR=1>

Obamacare: the Coming Retreat

by Charles Krauthammer, 31 July 2009

Yesterday, Barack Obama was God. Today, he's fallen from grace, the magic gone, his health care reform dead. If you believed the first idiocy—and half the mainstream media did—you'll believe the second. Don't believe either.

Conventional wisdom always makes straight-line projections. They are always wrong. Yes, Obama's aura has diminished, in part because of overweening overexposure. But by year's end he will emerge with something he can call health care reform. The Democrats in Congress will pass it because they must. Otherwise, they'll have slain their own savior in his first year in office.

But that bill will look nothing like the massive reform Obama originally intended. The beginning of the retreat was signaled by Obama's curious reference—made five times—to "health-insurance reform" in his July 22 news conference.

Reforming the health care *system* is dead. Cause of death? Blunt trauma administered not by Republicans, not even by Blue Dog Democrats, but by the green eyeshades at the Congressional Budget Office...

Read on: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/30/AR2009073002819.html>

Disaster in the Making

Obama's repeated demonstrations of his amateurism and immaturity.

by Thomas Sowell, 30 July 2009

...Like so many before him who have ruined countries around the world, Obama has a greatly inflated idea of his own capabilities and the prospects of what can be accomplished by rhetoric or even by political power. Often this has been accompanied by an ignorance of history, including the history of how many people before him have tried similar things with disastrous results.

During a recent TV interview, when President Obama was asked about the prospects of victory in Afghanistan, he replied that it would not be victory like in World War II, with "Hirohito coming down and signing a surrender to MacArthur." In reality, it was more than a year after Japanese officials surrendered on the battleship Missouri before Hirohito met General Douglas MacArthur for the first time.

This is not the first betrayal of his ignorance by Obama, nor the first overlooked by the media. Moreover, ignorance by itself is not nearly as bad as charging full steam ahead, pretending to know. Barack Obama is doing that on a lot of issues, not just history or a local police incident in Massachusetts...

Entire column: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MGI0OWJhZGRmN2E1N2EzMzQ1YzA3ZjU4YjE2Y2E2OWI=>

Venezuela: 'Freedom of expression must be limited'

by Christopher Toothaker, 30 July 2009

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's top prosecutor insisted Thursday that freedom of expression in

Venezuela "must be limited" and proposed legislation that would slap additional restrictions on the country's news media.

The new law would punish the owners of radio stations, television channels and newspapers that have attempted to "cause panic" and "disturb social peace," Attorney General Luisa Ortega said.

It also would punish media owners who "manipulate the news with the purpose of transmitting a false perception of the facts."

"Freedom of expression must be limited," Ortega said. Ortega urged lawmakers to consider her suggestions as they debate a bill that would punish as-yet-undefined "media crimes." The National Assembly, which is controlled by allies of President Hugo Chavez, is expected to approve the measure in coming months...

More:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D99P3IKO0&show_article=1



Socialist dictators think alike.

Ah, yes, we remember Dan Blather: the only guy who's actually an ex-Marine.

Dan Rather wants Obama to help save the news

by Andrew Travers, 29 July 2009

Former CBS News anchor Dan Rather called on President Barack Obama to form a White House commission to help save the press Tuesday night in an impassioned speech at the Aspen Institute. "I personally encourage the president to establish a White House commission on public media," the legendary newsman said.

Such a commission on media reform, Rather said, ought to make recommendations on saving journalism jobs and creating new business models to keep news organizations alive. At stake, he argued, is the very survival of American democracy...

More B.S.: <http://www.aspendailynews.com/section/home/135834>

Danny Boy, we know what you really think about American democracy: that it's OK to lie, smear, slant, and even forge documents—whatever it takes to trick the voters into choosing socialism over freedom. Charles Johnson's work on this topic remains a landmark in the history of real journalism. Check this out. It includes the famous moving GIF image of the forged memo:

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/article/32256_npr_rewrites_rathergate_history_to_cover_up_fraud

The Willful Ignorance Brigade is Out In Force

Don John, 30 July 2009

The Dems are really getting desperate about their long-planned takeover of medical care—so desperate that they're even more divorced from reality than usual. These are people, after all, who believe that Obama's breezy statements about economics are neither (a) blather, nor (b) lies, and that global warming is (a) happening, and (b) something humans can stop.

In "[The 10 Dumbest Arguments Against Health Care Reform](#)" (28 July 09) Paul Waldman claims that the U.S. system is horrible, and those of Canada and the U.K. work very well!

In "[Republicans Looking Crazy on Health Care](#)" (30 July 09) Froma Harrop derides the GOP's concern about old people being steered away from expensive care, and towards the grave—as if that isn't exactly what happens in Britain and Canada, and despite Obama's own statements about giving painkillers instead of costly cures.

In "[Happy Birthday, Medicare](#)" (30 July 09) Marie Cocco trots out the old sleight-of-hand about Medicare's "cost per beneficiary."

Steve Chapman refutes Marie Cocco:

...Nor is there any reason to think Washington can administer health insurance with appreciably lower overhead than private companies. Medicare supposedly does so, but that is partly because it doesn't have to engage in marketing to attract customers, which this program would. It also spends less than private companies combating fraud and unwarranted treatments—a type of monitoring that spends dollars while saving more.

As the Congressional Budget Office has pointed out, "The traditional fee-for-service Medicare program does relatively little to manage benefits, which tends to reduce its administrative costs but may raise its overall spending relative to a more tightly managed approach." False economies are one reason Medicare has done a poor job of controlling costs...
<http://www.creators.com/opinion/steve-chapman/the-public-option-health-care-scam.html>

Robert Book corrects Cocco, too:

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/HealthCare/wm2505.cfm>

Froma Harrop may not have heard what Obama said on June 24, but Dan Cleary was one of many bloggers who were chilled by The Obama Prescription for sick old people: "*Maybe you're better off not having the surgery, but taking the painkiller.*"

http://dancleary.typepad.com/dan_cleary/2009/06/dr-obama-skip-the-surgery-heres-a-painkiller.html

There are so many refutations of Waldman's lunatic assertions that it's hard to know where to start. The record on Canadian and British health "care" is voluminous. Let's just go with several recent pieces, and leave it at that.

John Stossel:

<http://www.americanissuesproject.org/blogs/columns/archive/2009/07/01/stossel-quot-better-quot-health-care.aspx>

Shikha Dalmia:

<http://www.reason.com/news/show/133344.html>

Clifford Asness:

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/07/23/health_care_mythology_97552.html

How We'll Win in Afghanistan

by Bing West, 28 July 2009

On both fronts—development and fighting—the U.S. military has surged forward this summer, just as promised. Given the vast, harsh terrain and the immense open border, instead of 60,000 American soldiers we actually need 100,000—and many more helicopters. Infantrymen wear down after hundreds of grueling patrols. Instead of a 12-month tour, the U.S. Army should rotate its units on a seven-month basis and keep their brigades intact, as do the Marines.

...Regardless of these shortcomings, there will be progress over the next year. Gen. David Petraeus, the theater commander, knows how to defeat an insurgency. In the north, we don't have to occupy every remote valley. Tribal rebels who just plain like to fight can be isolated in the harsh mountains to enjoy their privations. In the south, the Marines and the British are cleansing Helmand Province of the toxic mixture of drug smuggling and insurgent dominance.

War is not complicated. You have to separate the guerrilla forces from the population and kill them until they no longer want to continue. Al Qaeda, dominated by Arabs, is finished inside Afghanistan. The Taliban are Afghans, to be dealt with by Afghans. As he did in Iraq, Gen. Petraeus wants to recruit local forces to protect their own villages. That will expand the Afghan forces to 300,000 and stabilize the situation. On patrols, Afghan soldiers spot the enemy 10 times more frequently than do coalition soldiers. Afghan soldiers are brave, hardy, ill-disciplined, individualistic, temperamental and trustworthy.

A year from now, coalition forces should be able to gradually withdraw, replaced by robust support and adviser units embedded in Afghan security forces. We shouldn't make this a NATO war, allowing the Afghans to stand back. We're outsiders, no matter how many schools we build or cups of tea we drink...

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203946904574302383639301864.html>

The New Third Rail

by Robert Tracinski, 29 July 2009

...Even this so-called "public option" was an attempt to crowd out private health insurance by luring people into government-subsidized insurance. But it turns out that Obama's legislation contains provisions that will kill private health insurance *directly*.

Quite simply, the bill **bans** insurance companies from writing new private individual policies. (If you get your health-

insurance through your employer, you eventually face the **same fate**, too.) The bill's defenders claim that private insurers will be able to write new policies—but they will have to do so through a government-run health-insurance "exchange." *Investor's Business Daily* explains what this means:

"The exchange will be a highly regulated clearinghouse of providers that meet the government's standards. Only those providers that follow Washington's stringent guidelines will be allowed to join this exclusive club. The government, through an unelected health choices commissioner, will set premiums, dictate benefits, determine deductibles, and establish coverage. Exchange participants will be required to insure anyone who asks to be covered and to accept all renewals.... [T]he weight of the mandates will mean only five or six providers will be able to survive and sell coverage in the exchange."

In other words, private insurance companies will be offered the privilege of administering health-insurance policies whose terms are written by government bureaucrats...

...Yes, there are many distortions in the market for health care and health insurance, distortions introduced by decades of government regulation and billions in government spending, but our private insurance still gives us the best care in the world—and crucially, more *control* over our own health-care than anywhere else in the world.

This is very clear to me because my family has been a pretty significant user of medical care in the past few years. Two years ago, our first child was born, and we now have a second child on the way. In between, my wife was in a semi-serious car accident. So we've spent our share of time in hospitals and examination rooms recently, and I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the quality of care we have received...

...The key is that *we* are in control. This system *works* at allowing us to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Many other Americans grasp this, and that is why we are terrified that Barack Obama wants to smash it all to pieces...

The whole essay: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0709/tracinski.php3>

Once More, With Feeling!

The New Republic editorial, 29 July 2009 (Aug 12 issue)

Forget the mushy editorial. The first four Comments—by Dtohmatsu, Responsible, JohnR, and Robert Engler—are much better:

Posted by dtohmatsu

1 of 4

Most humans once they get past the age of five or six develop the ability to distinguish between what is desirable and what is realistic. Apparently, the Editors of the TNR never developed this faculty. They believe in: Immortality: We can stop sickness from taking people's lives away. Omniscience and omnipotence: A few legislators can effectively reorganize a sixth of the U.S. economy with a few pen strokes...or at least with a few months of spirited discussion. Magic: We can not only reduce the rate of growth of health care costs, but we can actually reduce the cost. Extra Special Magic: We can insure 50 million additional people through cost savings begat by mere Presidential proclamation and the adulation of adoring progressive pundits. Robin Hood: Everyone making less than \$80,000 can have free health insurance if we can force enough rich, evil, job-creating small business owners to visit scenic Sherwood Forest.

In contrast, here is what grownups believe...

Continue: <http://www.tnr.com/talkback.html?id=dd99df23-ad60-425c-b4f3-e3d8c03d8aa7>

They come to believe they're entitled

Testimony says senators got sweetheart loans.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, 29 July 2009

Although powerful Democratic Sens. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Kent Conrad of North Dakota—whose committees oversee the mortgage banking industry—claimed they had no idea they were getting special mortgage deals from Countrywide Financial Corp., an official who handled their loans has told Congress in closed-door testimony the pair were indeed informed at the time they were getting special deals.

Robert Feinberg, who worked in the VIP section of Countrywide, testified about the loan terms before the Senate Ethics Committee, providing the same information in an interview with Republican investigators of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Countrywide lost billions of dollars on bad loans—some of them loans that Countrywide and other lenders were pressured to make by regulators responding to the legislative meddling of Washington politicians including Sens. Dodd and Conrad...

More details: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/51978772.html>

The Mask Slips

by Melanie Phillips, 27 July 2009

...Even after Obama started rowing back, noted Juan Williams of NPR, he was *still* getting the facts wrong, claiming that Sgt Crowley had led Gates out of his house whereas this was 'just not true'...

...As regular readers of this blog know, I have been banging on from the start of Obama's rise to power about the astonishing discrepancy between how he was presented by the media on the issue of race and what he actually had said and done. His whole background from the earliest days onwards was steeped in anti-white grievance politics of the most bitter and corrosive kind. This was all ignored. His two-decade membership of an anti-white church was ignored, his early anti-white mentors such as Frank Marshall Davis were ignored, his participation on the Nation of Islam 'Million Man march' and his association with Nation of Islam cadres were ignored.

And as Krauthammer aptly observed—and as I wrote [here](#)—Obama's major speech on race in March 2008 in which he finally 'renounced' his former pastor, the anti-white bigot Rev Jeremiah Wright, which was hailed as the greatest piece of oratory since the Gettysburg address and which supposedly transcended racial animosities to create the colour-blind Brotherhood of Man, was anything but. In this speech Obama actually said Wright should *not* be renounced, and that Wright's racism was actually all the fault of white people. The fact that so many people failed to hear or read what Obama actually said and instead heard or read only what they wanted to hear was truly frightening.

Now, thanks to the histrionics of Henry Louis Gates, we can see how Obama's dysfunctional attitude to race plays out in real time...

Read the rest: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/5225221/the-mask-slips.shtml>

The dust of dissent can still choke this regime

Oppression in Iran seems tougher than ever, but beneath the surface, cracks are appearing and public anger still burns.

by Rosemary Righter, 27 July 2009

...Shades of 1979 will be evoked this Thursday, when Iranians mark the end of the 40-day mourning cycle for the first protesters — including the iconic Neda Agha Soltan — mown down by the regime. Yesterday Mr Mousavi and Mr Karroubi requested permission to hold a memorial service for them in Tehran's main mosque. To ban such a ceremony would be seen as un-Islamic. But everyone remembers that in 1979 the cycles of 40-day mourning, and the shooting of mourners, turned opposition to the Shah into an irresistible mass movement.

Iran is not nearly at that point yet. Inoculated against the "martyr culture" by 30 years of Khomeinism, and the horrendous "Islamic human wave" death toll in the Iran-Iraq war, the young are far less prepared than their parents to die for any cause, even freedom, unless it appears to be attainable. The Revolutionary Guard is an incomparably more powerful and ruthless coercive force than any at the Shah's command. And the regime still has the will to hit back.

Khamenei told Iran's elites last week to be "careful" not to risk "flunking a test they could never retake," adding with deliberate menace that "anyone, with whatever title and position, who pushes the society towards insecurity would be a hated figure." The message was clear: the Supreme Leader will not shrink at destroying Iran's mightiest, if that is what it takes to retain power.

But Mr Rafsanjani's website countered with a passage from his memoirs. "The term fear is meaningless. There is a test in the waiting for each generation, and the most important test is how to relate to the people." The passage, his office innocently but pointedly commented, recorded Mr Rafsanjani's considered reflections — on the 1979 revolution.

More: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/rosemary_righter/article6728235.ece#cid=OTC-RSS&attr=2270657

Obama Administration Cancels Shovel-Ready Projects: Thousands of Jobs Lost

Pamela Geller, 27 July 2009

A shovel ready project canceled? Can you believe this? These Democrats are poison!! How many jobs lost? Where is the accountability? They are tearing through our hard-earned money, destroying our economy—for what? Paying off Obama's operatives? This is nuts!

Where does this idiot think we get our energy from? Obama is destroying this country. FACT...

More: http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/07/obama-administration-cancels-shovel-ready-project-thousands-of-jobs-

Family Feud

Six ways that Obama can regain Israeli trust.

by Yossi Klein Halevi in Jerusalem, 28 July 2009

Are we in the early stages of an American-Israeli crisis? Or are the growing and public disagreements between the Obama administration and the Netanyahu government over settlements and Jerusalem merely arguments "within the family," as President Obama insisted in his recent meeting with American Jewish leaders?

According to one poll, only six percent of Israelis consider Obama a friend. That perception of hostility is new. Israelis welcomed Barack Obama when he visited here in July 2008 and many responded enthusiastically to his election. But Israelis sense that Obama has placed the onus for restarting negotiations on Israel. Worse, he is perceived as showing weakness toward the world's bullies while acting resolutely only toward Israel. Many Israelis—and not only on the right—suspect that Obama actually wants a showdown with Jerusalem to bolster his standing in the Muslim world. If those perceptions aren't countered, the Israeli public will reject Obama's peace initiatives.

On the assumption that the pessimists among us are wrong and the Obama administration isn't seeking a pretext to create a crisis in American-Israeli relations, here are some suggestions for Washington about how to reassure increasingly anxious Israelis...

Read on: <http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=00fd8e08-4699-4c30-a42a-bf4daa5680a7>

The Walpin Case: An IG Fights Back

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review editorial, 27 July 2009

Gerald Walpin isn't going quietly. And the nation is better for his tenacious defense of the integrity of federal officials who play the role of watchdog on taxpayers' behalf.

Mr. Walpin, who brought to light misuse of AmeriCorps funds by a buddy of the president, was fired on June 10 from his post as inspector general for the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps. The firing violated the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008, which guards against political removal of IGs. The measure was co-sponsored by then-Sen. Barack Obama.

Walpin's call for a congressional hearing into this scandal fell on deaf ears on Democrat-controlled Capitol Hill. But rather than just return to his legal practice in New York, he's standing up for IGs' integrity through a federal lawsuit. It charges that the Obama administration violated the 2008 law by firing him without interviewing him and his staff, without giving Congress 30 days' notice and without providing a full explanation. And White House accusations that Walpin, 77, appeared to be unable to function raise questions about age discrimination, too, his lawyers say.

The only thing not functioning here is White House respect for the rule of law. America deserves more officials who function as effectively, conscientiously and courageously as Gerald Walpin.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_635183.html

Global warming worriers need to go nuclear

by John Dendahl, 27 July 2009

...Sen. Mark Udall claims he's worried about global warming. He wants human production of carbon dioxide radically reduced. Ditto his wife, Maggie Fox, who runs Alliance for Climate Protection, founded by Al Gore with money from his global warming horror flick.

Here we have an inside-outside Udall family partnership working the Senate for votes for the ruinous cap-and-trade legislation President Obama wants.

I wrote to ask Udall's positions on carbon — regulate as a pollutant, cap emissions by statute and/or international treaty — the whole arsenal in this campaign against the economy and American sovereignty.

While awaiting a reply, I sent another note inquiring about nuclear energy, since that choice has several attractions. Among those are a half-century safety record unequalled by any major industry in history, zero carbon emissions, low operating expenses, no dependence on bad guys for fuel — and continuous output 24/7.

Udall's reply is boilerplate that any clerk could have sent back to me by return mail, rather than taking six weeks. As members of Congress have claimed ever since the Arab oil embargo in 1974, Udall wants a "comprehensive energy plan."

In addition to generous portions of New Energy Economy fantasy, Udall would include "responsible onshore and offshore drilling for oil and natural gas . . . [and] safely expanding nuclear power."

The devil's in the caveats. What offshore drilling would Udall consider "responsible"? What does "safely" mean in the context of expanding industrial safety's *crème de la crème*? This apple didn't fall far from the tree. Read on...

More: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_12919321

Waxman-Markey Deserves to Die

by Pete Du Pont, 26 July 2009

...It would regulate many things—energy, wages, imported goods, corporations, states, cities, buildings and houses, snowmobiles, lawn mowers, light fixtures, candelabra base lamps and many others—while containing broad exemptions for regulation of agribusiness, ethanol and biofuels. The Waxman-Markey bill would be without question the biggest expansion of federal government control over our economy since the 1930s...It would reduce America's real gross domestic product by \$400 billion each year—a cumulative loss of \$9.4 trillion by 2035—leading to almost 2.5 million job losses, and raise inflation-adjusted electricity rates by 90%. For a household of four, it would cost on average \$2,979 annually and in 2035 the total family cost would be over \$4,600 for everything, including power, food, supplies, gasoline and transportation...

...Of course we have seen the predecessor of the Waxman-Markey bill in the European Union's cap-and-trade regulation, a political failure as well as an economic one. As Heritage's Ben Lieberman has pointed out, it has not worked in various countries, and is now being opposed by nations that need to burn coal for their electricity generation. As the Washington Post wrote last February, European "emission targets were set too high. Too many pollution allowances were given away to industry...Companies made windfall profits by charging customers more for energy while selling allowances they didn't need. And the Europeans have not had much success in reducing greenhouse gas emissions."...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204886304574308771420637620.html>

The Path Forward for Honduras

by Roberto Micheletti, 27 July 2009

One of America's most loyal Latin American allies—Honduras—has been in the midst of a constitutional crisis that threatens its democracy. Sadly, key undisputed facts regarding the crisis have often been ignored by America's leaders, at least during the earliest days of the crisis.

In recent days, the rhetoric from allies of former President Manuel Zelaya has also dominated media reporting in the U.S. The worst distortion is the repetition of the false statement that Mr. Zelaya was removed from office by the military and for being a "reformer." The truth is that he was removed by a democratically elected civilian government because the independent judicial and legislative branches of our government found that he had violated our laws and constitution.

Let's review some fundamental facts that cannot be disputed...

Continue: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204886304574311083177158174.html>

Obama's Accidental Gift on Race

by Andrew Breitbart, 27 July 2009

Less than a month after being confirmed as the nation's attorney General, Eric H. Holder Jr. called out the American people as "essentially a nation of cowards" for refusing to talk openly about race. So, thank you, professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. and President Obama, for starting the long-awaited national discussion on black and white identity—while averting our attention from the cockamamie scheme to nationalize health care...

...The mainstream media choose to flaunt story lines that make white America appear guilty of continued institutional racism, while black racism against whites is ignored as an acceptable disposition given our nation's history. This double standard provides a game board on which the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton can thrive in perpetuity and ensures racial progress is slowed.

And that is why the Case of Sergeant Crowley vs. Professor Gates is so important. As is expected from professional race baiters, Mr. Gates instigated a public brouhaha over race. And Mr. Obama, a man who attended the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's racist sermons for 20 years, used the bully pulpit to grant his friend a national platform to condemn a man for doing his job.

Sgt. Crowley, a proud and defiant public professional, played the moment perfectly and stopped his own assassination by media. Talk about a postmodern hero. Whether he likes it or not, Sgt. Crowley is a potent symbol of how the union has managed to become more perfect, a Rosa Parks of rush-to-judgment "reverse racism."

Now that the facts of the case show that his friend the professor was the man doing the racial profiling, the president wants to end the discussion. Now we see what the attorney general meant when he spoke of cowards.

Full column: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jul/27/the-presidents-accidental-gift-on-race/>

Obama knows 'stupidly' when he doesn't see it

Encounter between cops and black professor suggests grievance-mongering will always be with us.

by Mark Steyn, 24 July 2009

...A black president, a black governor and a black mayor all agree with a black Harvard professor that he was racially profiled by a white-Latino-black police team, headed by a cop who teaches courses in how to avoid racial profiling. The boundless elasticity of such endemic racism suggests that the "post-racial America" will be living with blowhard grievance-mongers like professor Gates unto the end of time...

Read it all: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/gates-professor-black-2506786-racism-sgt>

Five freedoms you'd lose in health care reform

by Shawn Tully, 24 July 2009

...If you prize choosing your own cardiologist or urologist under your company's Preferred Provider Organization plan (PPO), if your employer rewards your non-smoking, healthy lifestyle with reduced premiums, if you love the bargain Health Savings Account (HSA) that insures you just for the essentials, or if you simply take comfort in the freedom to spend your own money for a policy that covers the newest drugs and diagnostic tests—you may be shocked to learn that you could lose all of those good things under the rules proposed in the two bills that herald a health-care revolution.

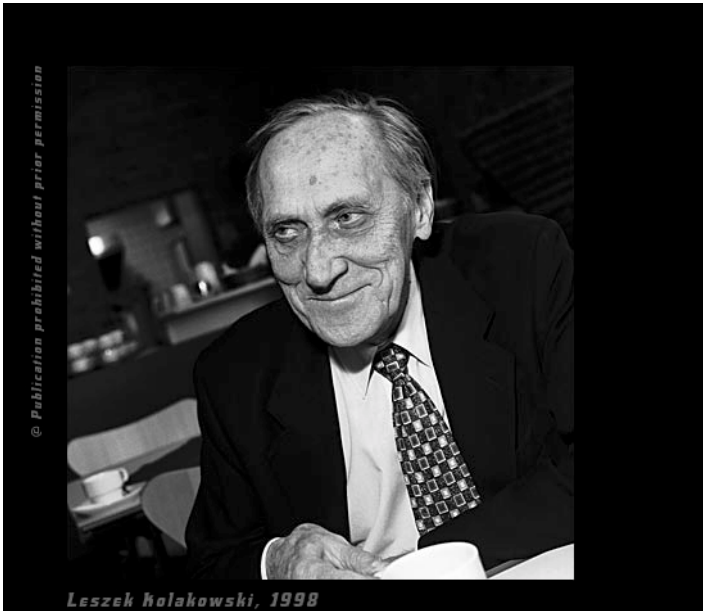
In short, the Obama platform would mandate extremely full, expensive, and highly subsidized coverage—including a lot of benefits people would never pay for with their own money—but deliver it through a highly restrictive, HMO-style plan that will determine what care and tests you can and can't have. It's a revolution, all right, but in the wrong direction...

...The Obama plan enshrines into federal law one of the worst features of state legislation: community rating...Americans with pre-existing conditions need subsidies under any plan, but community rating is a dubious way to bring fairness to health care...It forces young people, who typically have lower incomes than older workers, to pay far more than their actual cost, and gives older workers, who can afford to pay more, a big discount. The state laws gouging the young are a major reason so many of them have joined the ranks of uninsured. Under the Senate plan, insurers would be barred from charging any more than twice as much for one patient vs. any other patient with the same coverage. So if a 20-year-old who costs just \$800 a year to insure is forced to pay \$2,500, a 62-year-old who costs \$7,500 would pay no more than \$5,000...

...Under the proposals, the gatekeepers would theoretically guide patients to tests and treatments that have proved most cost-effective. The danger is that doctors will be financially rewarded for denying care, as were HMO physicians more than a decade ago. It was consumer outrage over despotic gatekeepers that made the HMOs so unpopular, and killed what was billed as the solution to America's health-care cost explosion...

See what else you would lose:

http://money.cnn.com/2009/07/24/news/economy/health_care_reform_obama.fortune/index.htm?postversion=2009072410



Leszek Kolakowski, 1927–2009

Remembering the great philosophical pathologist of Marxism.

by George Weigel, 24 July 2009

Leszek Kolakowski, who died at 82 on July 17, will be remembered by the world of letters as one of the leading philosophers of the late 20th century, a man whose magisterial *Main Currents of Marxism* will be read centuries from now by anyone interested in getting at the intellectual roots of one of modernity's most consequential — and lethal — bodies of thought. His native Poland will remember Kolakowski as one of a small group of intellectuals who, in the aftermath of Hungary 1956 and Czechoslovakia 1968, turned their backs on theoretical Marxism as well as on the Communist Party, wrecking their own academic careers but laying some of the paving stones that would eventually lead to the Solidarity movement, the nonviolent collapse of European Communism, and the triumph of freedom in much of Central and Eastern Europe.

Those memories will be true to the man and his accomplishment. But when I think of Leszek Kolakowski, the first thing that comes to mind is perhaps the worst dive I've ever been in: the hard-currency bar in the basement of a five-star (sic) Moscow hotel in October 1990...

Continue: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=N2MxNWM2OThhY2Y0NTYwMGHlYzUyZGU2M2I4ZGJhZmM=>

It may last. It may not. But at least a lot of people are waking up. So nice of Professor Gates—an arrogant friend of an arrogant president—to help out.

Obama approval falls below 50% for the first time

24 July 2009

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Friday shows that 30% of the nation's voters now Strongly Approve of the way that Barack Obama is performing his role as President. Thirty-eight percent (38%) Strongly Disapprove giving Obama a Presidential Approval Index rating of -8 (see trends).

Just 25% believe that the economic stimulus package has helped the economy.

The Presidential Approval Index is calculated by subtracting the number who Strongly Disapprove from the number who Strongly Approve... Overall, 49% of voters say they at least somewhat approve of the President's performance. Today marks the first time his overall approval rating has ever fallen below 50% among Likely Voters nationwide. Fifty-one percent (51%) disapprove...

More: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/obama_administration/daily_presidential_tracking_poll

Reams of comment have been published this week concerning the disgraceful behavior of Henry Louis Gates and the appalling presumption of Barack Obama. These three essays are among the very best.

A Teaching Moment

by Jules Crittenden, 24 July 2009

<http://www.julescrittenden.com/2009/07/24/a-teaching-moment/>

Promoting Racial Paranoia

In his comments Wednesday, Obama recycled long-discredited anti-cop fictions.

by Heather Mac Donald, 24 July 2009

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YTU4MGE4MDkwYzhiYjY4OTk2OWRlZjcyMwY0MjFkNmE>

The President vs. the Police Officer

by Peter Wehner, 24 July 2009

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/74262>

This marvelous essay is very long, but very entertaining. In clear language—not the jargon and platitudes that so many politicians and "experts" employ on a daily basis—it covers every aspect of the health care debate, demolishing widespread misconceptions and outright deceptions.

Health Care Mythology

by Clifford Asness, 23 July 2009

...A large fraction of health care costs are sadly in the short period before death from long-term illness. If socialized societies ration these costs then their total cost/GDP could indeed be lower than in the US. But, I can not see disallowing free people from spending their own money on their last few months of life. If people have what economists would call a "taste" for this (in this case the word seems callous but it's accurate) then a free system could indeed voluntarily choose to spend more per GDP on health care. That is not a bad feature of the system. It's a wonderful feature of the system, as it allows someone who spent a lifetime saving for retirement to use a little bit of that to live a bit longer if it's their desire. Just because you (perhaps) do not agree with the choice does not mean you have a right to dictate to these people...

...It is an uncomfortable truth that tough choices will have to be made. There is no system that provides for unlimited wants with limited resources. Our choice is whether it should be rationed by free people making their own economic calculations or by a bureaucracy run by Congressional committee (whose members, like the Russian commissars, will, I guarantee you, still get the best health care the gulag hospitaligo can provide). Free people making their own choices only consume what they value above price, using funds they have earned or been given voluntarily. With socialized medicine health care is rationed by committees of politicians trying to get re-elected and increase their own power, and people consume as much of it as the commissars deem permissible. I do not find these tough alternatives to choose between...

...While again we may choose to provide a minimum standard of health care to our neediest, we should not be ashamed that better health care, like all material goods, comes with success. Capitalism is simply what happens when you mix freedom and economics. Capitalism says if you achieve and build more, you can spend more and have more. You can have a bigger TV, a bigger house, a hotter spouse, and shinier teeth for your pets (or a hotter pet and shinier teeth for your spouse). How on Earth did the notion that it's "unfair" to spend the money you earned on your own health care, probably the most important thing to you, come about? Well, I know how it came about. It has been pushed by a far left academia, political candidates who don't have a clue about economics beyond cashing a lobbyist's check, trade union organizers pining for a workers revolution that just never came but now they're trying to steal on the sly (but God forbid a secret ballot), and a biased media who just thinks they are smarter, better and kinder people than everyone else because they enjoy making snotty sarcastic comments about Republicans (and where is Jon Stewart going to get his health care under the new system anyway?)...

Read the whole thing: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/07/23/health_care_mythology_97552.html

Obama Is Delaying the Economic Recovery

by Peter Ferrara, 22 July 2009

...Don't believe the Obama Administration rhetoric about how this economy has just turned out to be so difficult and they are doing the best they can. While the economy is still getting worse, the truth is the recovery is long overdue. The National Bureau of Economic Research dates this recession as starting some time during December, 2007. The longest recession since World War II was 16 months, with the average being 10 months. The current recession has now lasted 19 months. By this reckoning, we should have had a normal cyclical recovery at least 3 months ago.

When President Obama was hawkking his stimulus package costing the American people close to \$1 trillion with interest, he told us that it would prevent the unemployment rate from rising above 8%. If we didn't pass it, he said, unemployment would go to 9%. He and his Administration savants also promised that the stimulus package would go to work reviving the economy immediately...

...Obviously, President Obama and his economic gurus didn't know what they were talking about. Not only is unemployment today at 9.5%, but even the Obama Administration is now saying it will go over 10%. President Obama is now changing his story, saying the stimulus was never supposed to work this fast, and it is really a two-year program. But if the economy was in such tragic shape when he came into office, why didn't he develop an economic program that would work faster?...

...Obama spent close to a trillion taxpayer dollars on his stimulus to do half the job, even if it worked as planned... Indeed, it was obvious from the beginning that the stimulus as designed was going to create or save exactly *zero* jobs, because it was based entirely on old-fashioned, throwback, Keynesian economics, proven not to work over and over... Indeed, nothing anywhere in Obama's entire economic package increases *incentives* for economic growth, or for investment in particular...

... By 2012, Obamanomics will have re-created the 1980 misery index, with high unemployment, high inflation, and high interest rates. Let me be the first to predict that President Obama will not even be running for re-election then...

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/07/22/obama-is-delaying-the-economic>

Library Association Abandons Principle, Allows Censorship

by Steven Emerson, 21 July 2009

When an organization organizes an annual **banned books week** to celebrate "the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular," it is a little disturbing to see the same group cancel a panel discussion because one of the invited speakers is considered objectionable.

But that's how the American Library Association (ALA) handled pressure from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) to silence an invited speaker for a panel discussion at its annual convention who has a perspective on Islam, jihad, and terrorism that CAIR doesn't like.

Jihad Watch director **Robert Spencer**, author of eight books on Islam and jihad, had been scheduled to appear July 12 on an ALA panel entitled "Perspectives on Islam: Beyond the Stereotyping." ALA canceled the panel after the other speakers decided to boycott the panel due to Spencer's participation. But rather than inviting others to replace them, or letting Spencer honor his commitment, the ALA capitulated and gave the critics what they wanted...

Continue: <http://www.investigativeproject.org/1101/library-association-abandons-principle-allows>

A searing indictment.

Obama's racist demagoguery

by Pamela Geller, 22 July 2009

After reading Barack Obama's speech at the 100th anniversary of the founding of the NAACP Thursday, there is no getting around it: The man is a racist. He is not a unifier, a healer, or a leader—he divides, incites, destroys. He foments animus and anger. The speech proves, yet again, that he does not (nor does he want to) represent all Americans. He is the most racist, divisive official we have ever elected to any high office, let alone the most powerful office in the world.

The speech was scandalous. The NAACP audience listened to the African-American president of the United States rail against discrimination in the country that elected him. His antagonist in the speech was the big white bogeymen, stealing the very lives and futures of black children, Muslims, Latinos and gays. Demagoguery. Obama complained that "more than half a century after *Brown v. Board*, the dream of a world-class education is still being deferred all across the country. African-American students are lagging behind white classmates in reading and math—an achievement gap that is growing in states that once led the way in the civil rights movement."

Does Obama believe, and does he expect us to believe, that this "achievement gap" is due to white racism?...

Read on: <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=104621#reg>

No Wonder Black America Doesn't Have A Clue

by Lloyd Marcus, 18 July 2009

While flipping through the channels with my remote, I stopped on the movie, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* on BET (Black Entertainment Television). Excellent movie. During a commercial break, they gave a news update. An announcer said, "They tried to get the Bronx kid, Sonia Sotomayor, but she beat them." There was not one mention of Sotomayor's controversial racist statements. Thus, ill-informed black viewers who don't follow the news closely are led to conclude that those "evil racist white Republicans" are at it again trying to block a person of color...

More: <http://www.lloydmarcus.com/?p=428>

Every word spoken in this video comes from the mouth of Barack Obama—and none of it is out of context. Last winter he was saying that the Democrats' economic Stimulus Package was going to start working "immediately...right now" to create and save jobs. In the spring, he claimed that the Stimulus was working as planned: "ahead of schedule, and under budget." But now, in mid-summer, he stands there and tells us "it wasn't designed to work in 4 months." Meanwhile, 2.3 million jobs have been lost since he signed the bill. And he still expects people to keep believing his deceptions!

Obama vs Obama on the Stimulus

a video from the House Republican Conference, 14 July 2009

Watch it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2MjQ17kDng>

Cap and Trade: A Comparison of Cost Estimates

by Nicolas Loris, 20 July 2009

The U.S House of Representatives passed, by a narrow margin, a massive energy bill that most notably includes a cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and allegedly curb global warming. A number of groups, including The Heritage Foundation, have estimated the costs of the bill introduced by Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Ed Markey (D-MA).

The Heritage Foundation, the Brookings Institution and the National Black Chamber of Commerce all found that the bill will have devastating economic impacts. All three studies project significant losses in employment and gross domestic product (GDP), the chief measure of economic activity. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimate significantly lower costs; however, these two only partially analyze microeconomic "cash only" effects, not the full macroeconomic impacts of cap and trade reported in the other studies...

Continue: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2550.cfm>

A fascinating, and revealing, story.

The Obsolete New York Model

Where a tax-eating majority votes itself a permanent income.

by Myron Magnet, 16 July 2009

It's worth recalling that when the Founding Fathers led the American colonists in revolt against British oppression, they weren't rebelling against torture on the rack or being chained in galleys or having to let aristocrats deflower their daughters. They were rebelling against taxes. To them, having to pay duties they hadn't voted for themselves was a tyrannical taking of property—theft—and, in true Lockean fashion, they concluded that since government exists to protect life, liberty, and property, a regime that does the opposite renders itself illegitimate. What would they make, then, of today's New York City, where 1.2 percent of the taxpayers—40,000 households—pay 50 percent of the income taxes, and half the households pay no income tax at all? If the tax code ensures that those who pay the bulk of the taxes are always a minority of those who vote for the legislature that imposes the taxes, isn't that taxation without representation? Isn't it also the tyranny of the majority that the Founders tried to prevent?

A state of affairs so opposed to the Founders' vision could never have come about all at once. It took shape in emergency spurts...

Read on: http://city-journal.org/2009/nytom_taxes.html

Radio talkers and conservative writers were all over this story a few days ago. Mr. Patterson, Hugh Hewitt's producer, offers succinct and pointed comments on Senator Boxer's classic liberal attitude. Mr. Alford did, too. Be sure to watch the video.

Barbara Boxer Race Relations

by Duane R. Patterson, 16 July 2009

...Harry Alford represents the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and testified, complete with documentation to support his claims, that the cap and tax and tax bill that Senator Boxer so wants to see become the law of the land would not help the energy situation in this country, would actually harm it, and have a devastating impact on businesses, and by extension, jobs.

Senator Boxer didn't see Mr. Alford sitting in the witness chair as someone with a viewpoint to have a debate with. She saw an African-American man that opposed her, and proceeded to then cite a NAACP resolution and a 100 Black Men of Atlanta endorsement. Mr. Alford rightly called Boxer on her racial condescension, which clearly flustered her. Note at the end of the clip where she responds to his anger as an Army veteran as saying she married a veteran, as if that's supposed to somehow protect her with that constituency group, too.

Boxer's entire M.O. as senator is to wield liberal ethnic or gender groups as a bat to bludgeon any criticism to her agenda. That's not debating, that's bullying. That's not respecting racial diversity. It's using racial groups as a weapon. It may be lost upon Senator Boxer, but not all African-Americans agree on everything... Maybe she could have cited some statistics that challenged Mr. Alford's material, and had a fruitful discussion about the merits of implementing a cap and tax and tax system. Boxer can't have that discussion. She'd lose. Instead, she implies she has more black people supporting her than opposing her, so Mr. Alford must therefore be discredited. Her stunt yesterday was reprehensible...

More: <http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/blog/g/4f0fb2d2-8581-45b2-aa7c-f6a0a01bf639>

Video of the Boxer-Alford exchange: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE_jGD5nZ6U

A Reckless Congress

Democrats want to ram through one of the greatest raids on private income and business in American history

Wall Street Journal, 20 July 2009

Say this about the 1,018-page health-care bill that House Democrats unveiled this week and that President Obama heartily endorsed: It finally reveals at least some of the price of the reckless ambitions of our current government...

...Mr. Obama's February budget provided the outline, but the House bill now fills in the details. To wit, tax increases that would take U.S. rates higher even than most of Europe. Yet even those increases aren't nearly enough to finance the \$1 trillion in new spending, which itself is surely a low-ball estimate. Meanwhile, the bill would create a new government health entitlement that will kill private insurance and lead to a government-run system.

...The average U.S. top combined state-federal marginal tax rate would hit about 52%. This would be higher than in all but three (Denmark, Sweden, Belgium) of the 30 countries measured by the OECD. According to the nearby table compiled by the Heritage Foundation, taxpayers in at least five U.S. states would pay higher marginal rates even than Sweden. South Korea, which Democrats worry is stealing American jobs, would be able to grab even more as its highest rate is a far more competitive 38.5%.

House Democrats say they deserve credit for being honest about the tax increases needed to fund their ambitions. But then they also claim that this surtax would raise \$544 billion in new revenue over 10 years. America's millionaires aren't that stupid; far fewer of them will pay these rates for very long, if at all. They will find ways to shelter income, either by investing differently or simply working less. Small businesses that pay at the individual rate will shift to pay the 35% corporate rate. When the revenue doesn't materialize, Democrats will move to soak the middle class with a European-style value-added tax...

...The most remarkable quality of this health-care exercise is its reckless disregard for economic and fiscal reality. With the economy still far from a healthy recovery, and the federal fisc already nearly \$2 trillion in deficit, Democrats want to ram through one of the greatest raids on private income and business in American history. The world is looking on, agog, and wondering why the United States seems intent on jumping off this cliff.

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124779717982855785.html>

Washington: Still Abusing the Economy...and Undermining Health Care

by Steve Forbes, 15 July 2009

...In addition to the unstable dollar, markets are fearful of the consequences of the Administration's excessive spending. After all, all this check writing—the greatest binge in U.S. history, with the exception of the Civil War and World War II—is unfolding *before* the wave of baby-boomer-generated entitlement spending that will crush Medicare and Social Security. If President Obama still wants Keynesian-style stimulus for ideological reasons, he should do it the right way—cut the FICA tax in half for 18 months. The virtue of this would be two-fold: The money would quickly get into consumers' hands, and the cost of hiring and employing people would be lower...

...We need to grasp that today's hybrid system is not truly a capitalist one. President Obama's worthy aims of universal and affordable medical care are achievable by bringing *genuine* free enterprise to the system, not more government.

Today there is a *disconnect* between providers and consumers. Almost all health insurance is covered by third parties—either insurance companies or governments—so patients rarely know what most health care services cost. If you go to a hospital and ask about prices, the staff's immediate reaction is that you must be uninsured. Why else would you want to know what something costs? Yet in just about every other aspect of our commercial lives the price of things is known. No wonder health care doesn't experience the kind of productivity gains found elsewhere...

...Here are some helpful and constructive measures that can move us to a more genuinely free-enterprise health care system: Equalize the tax treatment of individuals and businesses...Allow consumers to shop for health insurance across state lines...Encourage the use of Health Savings Accounts...Permit small businesses to form pools so they can increase their pricing leverage with insurers...Remove state-imposed obstacles to allowing routine medical care to be offered in, say, Wal-Mart stores...Remove the obstacles that prevent entrepreneurs from setting up new clinics or hospitals...

Complete column: <http://www.forbes.com/2009/07/15/fact-and-comment-opinions-steve-forbes.html>

"The white race is the cancer of human history."

—liberal icon Susan Sontag, 1966.

Fortunately, she got to see GWB re-elected before she died of cancer in December 2004.

"For 40 years, liberals have described the most open and tolerant society on earth as racist and xenophobic."

—Dennis Prager, 23 Sept 2008

CBO Disappears in NYT Black (News) Hole

by Tom Bevan, 17 July 2009

Readers of the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Post* woke up this morning to see front page stories on the news that the Congressional Budget Office produced a rather damning report on the Democrats' health care plan...

...Readers of the *New York Times*, however, wouldn't have any clue about the CBO report by looking at the paper's front page. The CBO report is mentioned today's *New York Times*—but it's buried inside the paper in the second paragraph of a story running under the headline, "House Committee Approves Health Care Bill."

It says quite a bit that the editors at the two other largest and most influential papers in the country found the story to be front page news but the editors at the *Times* did not.

View the front pages of all three newspapers here:

<http://realclearpolitics.blogs.time.com/2009/07/17/cbo-disappears-in-nyt-black-news-hole/>

It's Not An Option

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 15 July 2009

It didn't take long to run into an "uh-oh" moment when reading the House's "health care for all Americans" bill. Right there on Page 16 is a provision making individual private medical insurance illegal.

When we first saw the paragraph Tuesday, just after the 1,018-page document was released, we thought we surely must be misreading it. So we sought help from the House Ways and Means Committee.

It turns out we were right: The provision would indeed outlaw individual private coverage. Under the Orwellian header of "Protecting The Choice To Keep Current Coverage," the "Limitation On New Enrollment" section of the bill

clearly states:

"Except as provided in this paragraph, the individual health insurance issuer offering such coverage does not enroll any individual in such coverage if the first effective date of coverage is on or after the first day" of the year the legislation becomes law.

So we can all keep our coverage, just as promised — with, of course, exceptions: Those who currently have private individual coverage won't be able to change it. Nor will those who leave a company to work for themselves be free to buy individual plans from private carriers...

Read on: <http://www.ibdeditorials.com/ibdarticles.aspx?id=332548165656854>

The 'Public Option' Health Care Scam

by Steve Chapman, 16 July 2009

Some statements are inherently unbelievable. Such as: "I am an official of the government of Nigeria, and I would like to deposit \$60 million in your bank account." Or: "I'm Barry Bonds, and I thought it was flaxseed oil." And this new one: "I'm Barack Obama, and I favor more competition in health insurance."...

...It will come as a surprise to private health insurance providers that they have not had to compete up till now. Nationally, there are some 1,300 companies battling for customers. Critics say in many states, one or two insurers enjoy a dominant position. But market dominance doesn't necessarily mean insufficient competition...

...Supporters of the "public option" think it can achieve efficiencies allowing it to underprice existing insurers. But efficiency is to government programs what barbecue sauce is to an ice-cream sundae: not a typical component. Nor is there any reason to think Washington can administer health insurance with appreciably lower overhead than private companies...

...A public program of the sort Democrats propose doesn't have to control costs, because in a pinch it can count on the government to keep it in business. Competition is healthy, but how are private companies supposed to compete with an operation that can tap the Treasury?

Students of the Obama economic policy will also note a curious consistency in its approach to economic issues. Some problems, like the near-collapse of General Motors and Chrysler, came about because competition worked very well at serving consumers and punishing poorly run companies. Some problems, such as high health insurance premiums, came about because competition allegedly didn't work so well. In both cases, the administration proposes the same solution: more federal spending and a bigger federal role.

Will introducing a government-run insurance program work? After all, that Nigerian financial scam works. Just not necessarily the way you hope.

Read it all: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/steve-chapman/the-public-option-health-care-scam.html>

Labor in the Driver's Seat

by George F. Will, 16 July 2009

...Today's Democratic majority in Congress, with UPS now aligned with the Teamsters, wants to put FedEx's ground pickup and delivery operations under the NLRA, thereby making FedEx's entire integrated system susceptible to disruption by local disputes.

"Bailout" is now both a noun and a verb, and FedEx characterizes what Congress might do for UPS as the "Brown Bailout." But properly used, "bailout" denotes a rescue of an economic entity from financial distress. Although UPS is suffering from the recession, so is FedEx. Furthermore, UPS, whose revenue is 36 percent more than FedEx's, began advocating this injury to FedEx long before this recession.

What UPS is doing is called **rent-seeking**—bending public power for private advantage by hindering a competitor. This practice, which expands exponentially as government expands arithmetically, is banal but can have entertaining ricochets:

If Congress makes FedEx's operations more precarious by changing the law to make it easier for local disputes to cripple its operations, Smith says a multibillion-dollar order for 15 Boeing 777s will be automatically canceled. One of the unions lobbying on behalf of UPS and the Teamsters is the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, whose members make 777s.

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/15/AR2009071502498.html>

Organizational Chart of the House Democrats' Health Plan

15 July 2009

View it here: <http://docs.house.gov/gopleader/House-Democrats-Health-Plan.pdf>



The Breaking Point; Summer of Discontent

by *Lieutenant Colonel Allen B West (US Army, Retired), 15 July 2009*

... There is a reason why this current regime seeks to shut down voices of opposition, the truth is getting out. Why is there legislation to label pro-life and pro-gun groups as domestic terrorists? Why is there a move to create local community review boards that will evaluate, truly regulate, talk radio, the bastion of conservative discourse?

We sit in our Republic and find ourselves living with an unemployment rate that is at 9.6% and climbing. We listen to leadership who tell us that they "misread" the economy or had bad information. We are hearing about a second stimulus package because the first stimulus will not really take effect for two years... then why was it called a "stimulus"?

This most recent exhibit of Congressional incompetence called the "Cap and Trade" bill is nothing more than a behavior modification by taxation piece of legislation. We live with a government which seeks to coercively make us succumb to their desired energy agenda.

We know that there is legislation to grant citizenship to the 15-20 million illegal immigrants residing here in America. This is the number one means to solidify liberal power before the mid-term elections of 2010. The long term solution to cement the power grab is the 2010 census which has been moved from the Department of Commerce to the White House and handed to ACORN (or whatever their name is) for execution. These two actions will change the electoral base of our Republic for years.

We are up to 32 "Czars" in our Nation, in essence a shadow government which does not answer to the people, just the President. We are told that we WILL have a healthcare reform solution which contains a public option. Why would I want the same people who run the Postal Service and AMTRAK involved in my healthcare?

Our President does nothing to support young people in Iran against the Ayatollahs but condemns the people of Honduras who are following their Constitution. We are seeing so many foreign policy faux pas' which more than remind us of the Carter administration, just worse...

More: http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/07/lt-.html

Science Fiction Czar

by *David Harsanyi, 15 July 2009*

Dr. John Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy—better known as the "science czar"—has been a longtime prophet of environmental catastrophes. Never discouraged but never right...

...it's one thing to be a bumbling soothsayer but quite another to underestimate the resourcefulness of mankind enough to ponder how "population-control laws, even including laws requiring compulsory abortion, could be sustained under the existing Constitution," as Holdren did in *Ecoscience* in 1977...

...Holdren never has ceased peddling calamity as science... Instead of coercion, though, he is a fan of "motivation."...

..."Motivation" is when Holdren tells us that global warming could cause the deaths of 1 billion people by 2020. Or when he claimed that sea levels could rise by 13 feet by the end of this century when your run-of-the-mill alarmist warns of only 13 inches. "Motivating"—or, in other words, scaring the hell out of people—about "possibilities" is an ideological and political weapon unsheathed in the effort to pass policies that, in the end, coerce us to do the right thing.

Holdren's past flies in the face of Barack Obama's contention, made on the day of the science czar's appointment, that his administration was "ensuring that facts and evidence are never twisted or obscured by politics or ideology." Holdren embodies the opposite, actually.

Full column: http://www.denverpost.com/harsanyi/ci_12837799

More atrocities in Iran. Though this story is on a website that calls itself Iranian Leftists, it comes through reliable channels. In any case, it's not for the squeamish.

"Probable Gang Rape and Murder" of Taraneh M.

by Azar, 14 July 2009

<http://iranian009.blogfa.com/post-31.aspx>

Growing Worries about Our Pied Piper

by Victor Davis Hanson, 10 July 2009

...There is a growing collective recognition that things simply do not work the way Obama thinks they do...And why are we more worried about the feelings of a hostile Ahmadinejad than of a friendly Maliki or Netanyahu?...

...Surely there is more to America than slavery and Hiroshima. So many Americans are vaguely beginning to sense that Obama is simply ignorant of Valley Forge, the Oregon Trail, and Iwo Jima. What happened at these places seems absent from his knowledge of the past, and so fails to inform his present narrative of and future plans for the nation...

...People often fail, not just because of the bogeymen "they" who "raised the bar," but also due to their own actions. But too often in the world of Obama, max out on your credit card and it's the fault of predatory banks. Default on your mortgage and you were tricked into buying more house than you needed. Choose to buy a cell phone or TV rather than make a monthly payment on a private catastrophic-health-insurance plan, and it is because you were neglected by government. Do not pay taxes, get a tax credit — but then still blame those "who do not pay their fair share." In contrast, Americans sense that the world of debt and trust will not work without responsibility and personable culpability — and that often our problem is not just to be found in "them" — the duly chastised and arrogant Lords of the Universe on Wall Street — but sadly in "us" as well...

...Americans are waking up to the fact that their president says, promises, and does things that simply do not make sense, at odds with what they know of human physics — with the predictable nature of the way humans have conducted themselves for centuries: Borrowing *is* debt, not "stimulus"; serial apologies soon sound insincere or become counterproductive; blaming someone else becomes tiresome; scapegoating leads nowhere; taking responsibility for failure is as necessary as being praised for success; people can be fooled only so many times by sonorous, ego-laced rhetoric...

Whole essay: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=ZDkxNGRmYWRjYmQyN2Q0ZTY3NGQ1OWI4ZjAwMjgwMTM=>

Pamela Geller reviews the July 14 SCOTUS confirmation hearings.

Is it me?

Or is Sotomayor an idiot? Ok, perhaps that is a tad harsh, but are you watching these hearings? Orrin Hatch just destroyed her. If gun owners just saw that testimony, they'd be marching on Washington, but that's not my point.

She can't speak, she can't defend her opinions. Patrick Leahy jumps in to make excuses for her.

She is so out of her league...

More: http://atlashrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/07/is-it-me.html

Obama's stimulus plan is not working

Detroit News editorial, 14 July 2009

...Proponents of big government spending see the failure of the stimulus package to deliver measurable results not as evidence that the strategy was wrong, but rather that not enough money was placed behind it. They're advocating yet another stimulus program, equal to or bigger than the last.

That would compound the mistake and drag the nation even deeper into debt. Borrowing has already pushed beyond the reckless level—the federal deficit is now nearly 12 percent of total economic output. Printing or borrowing even more

money to fund this failed experiment would devalue the dollar and increase the likelihood of devastating inflation.

We said when Obama first proposed this spending explosion that it was the wrong way to stimulate the economy. That's now fact. Instead of more spending, Obama and Congress should turn to the only proven stimulus strategy: cutting taxes. Corporate and individual tax rates should be cut substantially, at all income levels, and the administration should signal that there will be no new taxes for anyone. Taxpayers allowed to keep more of their own money would spread it around the economy and trigger a broad and sustainable rebound.

The president should signal that his No. 1 priority is reviving the economy and set aside those pieces of his agenda—carbon cap-and-trade and health care reform specifically—that carry the serious risk of killing jobs and raising the costs of goods and services.

Particularly, it ought to be clear to everyone in Washington that a nation that has squandered more than a trillion dollars on failed stimulus efforts can't afford the \$100 billion to \$200 billion 10-year price tag for Obama's health care proposal. Obama has taken fiscal irresponsibility to unprecedented heights. He can't keep spending like this.

The rest: <http://detnews.com/article/20090714/OPINION01/907140314/1008/Editorial—Obama-s-stimulus-plan-is-not-working>

This piece seems to have gone viral recently, but without attribution to its original author.

Dinner at the White House: a parable

by Richard Gleaves, 1 June 2009

Once upon a time, I was invited to the White House for a private dinner with the President. I am a respected businessman, with a factory that produces memory chips for computers and portable electronics. There was some talk that my industry was being scrutinized by the administration, but I paid it no mind. I live in a free country. There's nothing that the government can do to me if I've broken no laws. My wealth was earned honestly, and an invitation to dinner with an American President is an honor.

I checked my coat, was greeted by the Chief of Staff, and joined the President in a yellow dining room. We sat across from each other at a table draped in white linen. The Great Seal was embossed on the china. Uniformed staff served our dinner. The meal was served, and I was startled when my waiter suddenly reached out, plucked a dinner roll off my plate, and began nibbling it as he walked back to the kitchen...

Read on: http://rebirthofreason.com/Articles/Gleaves/Dinner_at_the_White_House_-_a_parable.shtml

Celebrity Facts

Don John, 14 July 2009

The British composer Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) was a 'conscientious objector' in World War Two—which means that he refused to join Winston Churchill and millions of his fellow Britons in the fight against Hitler.

What kind of conscience was that?

The American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was **known to support** all kinds of far-left groups, including the Black Panthers. But one of the worst things he ever did was to privately reveal the homosexuality of his mentor, Dmitri Mitropoulos, to someone who used that information to keep Mitropoulos from becoming conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

You only get one guess as to how Bernstein knew Mitropoulos was gay.

Ashley Mote is a member of the UK Independence Party, and was a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009. This article is four years old, but its relevance is undiminished. It shows that the more centralized the government—the farther away it is from the people it governs—the less accountable and more dictatorial it is. There's also mention of the way big business—which people wrongly assume is the essence of free market capitalism—can be co-opted to go along with a socialist agenda. All this is a glimpse of what "world government" would look like: unelected officials, many thousands of miles away from you, knowing nothing of your culture or even your language, would regulate your life. But world government or continental government aren't the only dangers. The central government of any country can operate this way, given the chance. On 20 January 2009 the Democrat Party was given the chance to run the United States in this fashion. And they're trying like hell to do it.

Beware the Secret Heart of the EU

by Ashley Mote, 1 Aug 2005

...The very structures of the EU were created to ensure that the electorates and their elected politicians did not have their hands on the levers of power... Today, the EU is a unitary system of government, not only run by anonymous officials, but also controlled by them as well. There is a difference, and it is crucial.

Even the EU's public face—the unelected commission—is part of the charade. Power does not lie with them. It lies with the senior staff running their departments, entrenched by some 3000 working groups and committees on which no elected MEP sits. Indeed, until recently, the very existence of this mountainous bureaucratic support structure was almost unknown...

...In effect, the left has said to the multinationals: you can have your markets stitched up for you, if we can indulge ourselves in endless social engineering. Big business has agreed. The result is a largely supportive parliament both from the left and right of the political divide...

...So if the parliament is a charade, why is it so well attended? In a word—money. If an MEP fails to push his electronic buttons during more than 50% of the votes, his allowances are cut. No wonder MEPs have been described as little more than a highly paid monkeys pressing buttons for bananas.

In one-hour sessions, which always precede lunch, hundreds of votes are taken at breakneck speed on long lists of resolutions and amendments. The purpose is to give democratic legitimacy to what passes for law in the European Union. Voting is so fast MEPs read the papers next day to understand what they decided, and to find out how the commission is interpreting the results...

Read it all: <http://newsgroups.derkeiler.com/Archive/Uk/uk.politics.misc/2005-08/msg00602.html>

The 'Cap And Tax' Dead End

by Sarah Palin, 14 July 2009

...I am deeply concerned about President Obama's cap-and-trade energy plan, and I believe it is an enormous threat to our economy. It would undermine our recovery over the short term and would inflict permanent damage.

American prosperity has always been driven by the steady supply of abundant, affordable energy. Particularly in Alaska, we understand the inherent link between energy and prosperity, energy and opportunity, and energy and security. Consequently, many of us in this huge, energy-rich state recognize that the president's cap-and-trade energy tax would adversely affect every aspect of the U.S. economy.

There is no denying that as the world becomes more industrialized, we need to reform our energy policy and become less dependent on foreign energy sources. But the answer doesn't lie in making energy scarcer and more expensive! Those who understand the issue know we can meet our energy needs and environmental challenges without destroying America's economy.

Job losses are so certain under this new cap-and-tax plan that it includes a provision accommodating newly unemployed workers from the resulting dried-up energy sector, to the tune of \$4.2 billion over eight years. So much for creating jobs.

In addition to immediately increasing unemployment in the energy sector, even more American jobs will be threatened by the rising cost of doing business under the cap-and-tax plan. For example, the cost of farming will certainly increase, driving down farm incomes while driving up grocery prices. The costs of manufacturing, warehousing and transportation will also increase.

The ironic beauty in this plan? Soon, even the most ardent liberal will understand supply-side economics...

Continue: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/13/AR2009071302852.html?sub=AR>

Obama Frees Iranian Terror Masters

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 11 July 2009

There are a few things you need to know about President Obama's shameful **release** on Thursday of the "Irbil Five" — Quds Force commanders from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) who were coordinating terrorist attacks in Iraq that have killed hundreds — yes, *hundreds* — of American soldiers and Marines...

...Fourth, President Obama's release of the Quds terrorists is a natural continuation of his administration's stunningly irresponsible policy of bartering terrorist prisoners for hostages...

...Michael Ledeen has **reported** that the release of the Irbil Five is part of the price Iran has demanded for its release in May of the freelance journalist Roxana Saberi. Again, that's only *part* of the price: Iran also has demanded the release of hundreds of its other terror facilitators in our custody. Expect to see Obama accommodate this demand, too, in the weeks

ahead.

Finally, when it comes to Iran, it has become increasingly apparent that President Obama wants the **mullahs to win**. What you need to know is that Barack Obama is a wolf in "pragmatist" clothing: Beneath the easy smile and above-it-all manner — the "neutral" doing his best to weigh competing claims — is a radical leftist wedded to a Manichean vision that depicts American imperialism as the primary evil in the world.

You may not have wanted to addle your brain over his tutelage in Hawaii by the Communist Frank Marshall Davis, nor his tracing of Davis's career steps to Chicago, where he seamlessly eased into the orbit of Arafat apologist Rashid Khalidi, anti-American terrorists Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn, and Maoist "educator" Michael Klonsky — all while imbibing 20 years' worth of Jeremiah Wright's Marxist "black liberation theology." But this neo-Communist well from which Obama drew holds that the world order is a maze of injustice, racism, and repression. Its unified theory for navigating the maze is: "United States = culprit." Its default position is that tyrants are preferable as long as they are anti-American, and that while terrorist methods may be regrettable, their root cause is always American provocation — that is, the terrorists have a point.

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=ZjY0MjkwOWVkbWVkeE2ZjM1N2E5M2M0MTdiYTl3MzM=>

Five Students Hanged for "Political Activities"

by Nancy Matthis, 9 July 2009

The Iranian regime executed five Kurdish students for "political activities" in the Kurdish city of Kermanshan in June. This video of the event has made its way to the outside world. It is hard to watch, but please take the time to suffer through it and share the information widely. The western world is living in denial of the forces of evil, lulled by consumer goods and soccer games. It is time we woke up and faced the truth.

Video: <http://frontpage.americandaughter.com/?p=2365>

The mullahs who impose this despotic rule on the people of Iran do not represent the true Iran. The people native to Iran are Persian, not Arabian. Their religious tradition is Zoroastrian, and their political culture traces back to the iconic tolerance of Cyrus the Great. This [article by an expatriate Iranian](#) is highly recommended reading.

Obama Rewrites the Cold War

by Liz Cheney, 13 July 2009

There are two different versions of the story of the end of the Cold War: the Russian version, and the truth. President Barack Obama endorsed the Russian version in Moscow last week.

Speaking to a group of students, our president explained it this way: "The American and Soviet armies were still massed in Europe, trained and ready to fight. The ideological trenches of the last century were roughly in place. Competition in everything from astrophysics to athletics was treated as a zero-sum game. If one person won, then the other person had to lose. And then within a few short years, the world as it was ceased to be. Make no mistake: This change did not come from any one nation. The Cold War reached a conclusion because of the actions of many nations over many years, and because the people of Russia and Eastern Europe stood up and decided that its end would be peaceful."...

...Mr. Obama's method for pushing reset around the world is becoming clearer with each foreign trip. He proclaims moral equivalence between the U.S. and our adversaries, he readily accepts a false historical narrative, and he refuses to stand up against anti-American lies...

...Asked at a NATO meeting in France in April whether he believed in American exceptionalism, the president said, "I believe in American Exceptionalism just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism." In other words, not so much.

The Obama administration does seem to believe in another kind of exceptionalism—Obama exceptionalism. "We have the best brand on Earth: the Obama brand," one Obama handler has said. What they don't seem to realize is that once you're president, your brand is America, and the American people expect you to defend us against lies, not embrace or ignore them. We also expect you to know your history...

...Perhaps Mr. Obama thinks he is making America inoffensive to our enemies. In reality, he is emboldening them and weakening us. America can be disarmed literally—by cutting our weapons systems and our defensive capabilities—as Mr. Obama has agreed to do. We can also be disarmed morally by a president who spreads false narratives about our history or who accepts, even if by his silence, our enemies' lies about us.

Read it all: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124744075427029805.html>

Sotomayor and the Second Amendment

by Nelson Lund, 12 July 2009

In several nineteenth century cases, the Supreme Court held that the individual liberties protected by the Bill of Rights, including the right to keep and bear arms, are **not** among the "privileges or immunities" protected against state abridgement by the Fourteenth Amendment. Whether this was a correct interpretation or not, the Supreme Court has adhered to it ever since, and the lower courts are required to accept it.

In the twentieth century, however, the Supreme Court decided a series of cases in which it concluded that most of the rights protected against the federal government by the Bill of Rights are also "incorporated" against the state governments by the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause. The Court has analyzed each right separately, but the legal test that eventually emerged focuses on the significance of the right at issue in the Anglo-American tradition of ordered liberty. The Supreme Court has not yet reviewed an incorporation case involving the Second Amendment, but its Second Amendment opinion last year pointedly noted that a due process analysis is now "required" under its twentieth century caselaw...

...The Supreme Court's twentieth century incorporation cases are the most relevant precedents, and Judge Sotomayor completely ignored them. Two months ago, the Ninth Circuit performed a careful analysis of those precedents, and concluded that the right to keep and bear arms is indeed incorporated. Nor was this the first court to realize that lower courts are required to analyze and apply those precedents. A number of circuit courts have done so with respect to other individual rights, and none of them has ever been criticized by the Supreme Court...

...President Obama has said that he wants judges whose "deepest values" will help them decide the 5 percent cases that are truly difficult. Judge Sotomayor's deepest values apparently caused her to ignore the precedents that would have vindicated the right of Americans to have the tools they need to protect themselves from violent criminals. Can anyone expect that to change if she is confirmed to the Supreme Court?

Full column: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/07/12/sotomayor_and_the_second_amendment_97420.html

Higher Taxes, Anyone?

by George Will, 12 July 2009

...But before embarking on Stimulus III, note that only about 10 percent of Stimulus II has yet been injected into the economy in 2009. This is not the administration's fault, the administration's defenders say, because government is cumbersome, sluggish and inefficient. But this sunburst of insight comes as the administration toils to enlarge governmental control of health care, energy, finance, education, et cetera...

...Let's guess: Will a person or institution looking for a place to invest \$1 billion seek opportunities in the United States, where policy decisions are deliberately increasing taxes, debt, regulations and the cost of energy, and soon will increase the cost of borrowing and hiring? Or will the investor look at, say, India. It is the least urbanized major country—70 percent of Indians live in rural areas, 50 percent on farms—so the modernizing and productivity-enhancing movement from the countryside to the city is in its infancy. This nation of 1.2 billion people has a savings rate of 25 percent to 30 percent, and fewer than 20 million credit cards. Which nation, India or the United States, is apt to have the higher economic growth over the next decade?

Yet while government diminishes America's comparative advantages, liberals are clamoring for ... higher taxes. Partly because of changes endorsed by presidents from Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama, approximately 60 percent of taxpayers now pay either no income tax (43 percent) or less than 5 percent of their income. Because one cannot raise significant money by that tax without nicking the middle class, or without bringing millions of people back onto the income tax rolls, attention is turning to a value-added tax.

A VAT is levied at every stage of production. Like the cap-and-trade regime being constructed, a VAT is a liberal politician's delight: It taxes everything, but opaquely.

Before he became an economic adviser in the Obama White House, where wit can be dangerous, Larry Summers said: Liberals oppose a VAT because it is regressive and conservatives oppose it because it is a money machine, but a VAT might come when liberals realize it is a money machine and conservatives realize it is regressive...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/10/AR2009071002938.html>

Welfare crisis strategy is nothing new

by Fran Eaton, 8 July 2009

...There will be no mention of eliminating six-figure-salaried state employees or revamping extravagant six-figure pension deals. No cuts to the nonessential Arts and Humanities budget—of course not, House Speaker Mike Madigan's wife, Shirley, has been intimately involved in the program for years. No, expect Quinn to propose cuts that hurt only the helpless...

...Since 1999, Illinois service employees have dumped \$1.4 million of their union dues into legislative and gubernatorial races. Ninety-six percent of the union's political funds were passed along to Illinois Democrats. Only \$30,000 or so ended up in Republican campaigns, and \$23,000 of that went to imprisoned former governor George Ryan.

The Service Employees International Union's biggest campaign fund recipient was impeached governor Rod Blagojevich, who received in excess of \$560,000 prior to his 2006 re-election bid. Whatever the union wanted, it got. That's the way the game is played. The service employees union in Illinois is so powerful that it appeared in U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald's indictment of Blagojevich. An "SEIU official" is alleged to have been involved in negotiating a replacement for Barack Obama's U.S. Senate seat.

Indeed, as *The Washington Post* wrote, "SEIU's apparent involvement is an indication of the extent to which it has, under the leadership of its ambitious and controversial president, Andrew L. Stern, become an omnipresent force in Democratic politics." So omnipresent that a representative from SEIU-Illinois now serves as Barack Obama's political director. So, in light of the budget dilemma, who do you really think Illinois Democrats will be more prone to listen to—unorganized and non-campaign fund contributing taxpayers working at their jobs back home or purple-shirt-clad Service Employees International Union protestors in front of their district offices, blocking entrance to the State House chambers?...

More: <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/eaton/1655823,070809eatoncol.article>

It's true: Barack Obama is mismanaging the country and leading it to ruin *on purpose*.

The Cloward-Piven Strategy

Near the end of the first hour of the July 9 *Rush Limbaugh Show*, a very intelligent caller (Judy, in Bloomfield CT) told guest-host Mark Steyn about a nefarious method of socialist revolution that was cooked up by a couple of academics in 1966, and which President Obama seems to be following perfectly.

A wonderful summary of it, by David Horowitz et al., can be found **here**.

Two additional overviews:

The Cloward-Piven Strategy of Economic Recovery

by Nancy Coppock, 7 Feb 2009

The Cloward-Piven Strategy, Part I: Manufactured Crisis

by Jim Simpson, 31 July 2008

And two very in-depth analyses:

The Cloward-Piven Strategy, Part II: Barack Obama and the Strategy of Manufactured Crisis

by Jim Simpson, 29 Sept 2008

The Cloward-Piven Strategy, Part III: Conspiracy of the Lemmings

by Jim Simpson, 27 Oct 2008

Lawmakers, read the bills before you vote

by Jeff Jacoby, 12 July 2009

..."Transparency" is a popular buzzword in good-government circles, and politicians are forever promising to transact the people's business **in the sunshine**. But as Hoyer's mirth suggests, when it comes to lawmaking, transparency is a joke. Congress frequently votes on huge and complex bills that few if any members of the House or Senate has read through. They couldn't read them even if they wanted to, since it is not unusual for legislation to be put to a vote just hours after the text is made available to lawmakers. Congress passed the gigantic, \$787 billion "stimulus" bill in February—the largest spending bill in history—after having had **only 13 hours** to master its 1,100 pages. A **300-page amendment** was added to Waxman-Markey, the mammoth cap-and-trade energy bill, at 3 a.m. on the day the bill was to be voted on by the House. **And that wasn't the worst of it**, as law professor Jonathan Adler of Case Western Reserve University noted in National Review Online:

"When Waxman-Markey finally hit the floor, there was no actual bill. Not one single copy of the full legislation that would, hours later, be subject to a final vote was available to members of the House. The text made available to some members of Congress still had 'placeholders'—blank provisions to be filled in by subsequent language."...

...Senators and representatives who vote on bills they haven't read and don't understand betray their constituents' trust. It is no excuse to say that Congress would get much less done if every member took the time to **read every bill**. Fewer and shorter laws more carefully thought through would be a vast improvement over today's massive bills, which are assembled in the dark and enacted in haste. Steny Hoyer chortles at the thought of asking members of Congress to do their job properly. It's up to voters to wipe the grin off his face.

Read it all: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/07/12/lawmakers_read_the_bills_before_you_vote/

Climate change: The sun and the oceans do not lie

by Christopher Booker, 11 July 2009

...Last week in Italy, the various branches of our emerging world government, G8 and G20, agreed in principle that the world must by 2050 cut its CO2 emissions in half. Britain and the US are already committed to cutting their use of fossil fuels by more than 80 per cent. Short of an unimaginable technological revolution, this could only be achieved by closing down virtually all our economic activity: no electricity, no transport, no industry. All this is being egged on by a gigantic publicity machine, by the UN, by serried ranks of government-funded scientists, by cheerleaders such as Al Gore, last week comparing the fight against global warming to that against Hitler's Nazis, and by politicians who have no idea what they are setting in train.

What makes this even odder is that the runaway warming predicted by their computer models simply isn't happening...A fast-growing body of reputable scientists from many countries has been coming up with a "counter-consensus", which holds that their fellow scientists have been looking in wholly the wrong direction to explain what is happening to the world's climate. The two factors which most plausibly explain what temperatures are actually doing are fluctuations in the radiation of the sun and the related shifting of ocean currents...

...Meanwhile a remarkable drama has been unfolding in Australia...

...Fielding put to the minister three questions. How, since temperatures have been dropping, can CO2 be blamed for them rising? What, if CO2 was the cause of recent warming, was the cause of temperatures rising higher in the past? Why, since the official computer models have been proved wrong, should we rely on them for future projections?

The written answers produced by the minister's own scientific advisers proved so woolly and full of elementary errors that Fielding's team have now published a 50-page, fully-referenced "Due Diligence" paper tearing them apart. In light of the inadequacy of the Government's reply, the Senator has announced that he will be voting against the bill.

The wider significance of this episode is that it is the first time a Western government has allowed itself to be drawn into debating the science behind the global warming scare with expert scientists representing the "counter consensus"—and the "consensus" lost hands down...

More:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/5804831/Climate-change-The-sun-and-the-oceans-do-not-lie.html>

As long as Obama and the mainstream media and all the world's *bien-pensant* elites persist in lying that it was a "coup," we need to repeat the truth over and over again. Zelaya broke the law flagrantly, and he was removed—legally.

Honduras' non-coup

Under the country's Constitution, the ouster of President Manuel Zelaya was legal.

by Miguel A. Estrada, 10 July 2009

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-estrada10-2009jul10,0,1570598.story>

And some earlier stories we posted on the same issue:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0702/p09s03-coop.html>

<http://www.aim.org/aim-column/a-u.s.-u.n.-plot-against-anti-communist-honduras/>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124623220955866301.html>

Earth's 'Fever' Breaks! Global temperatures 'have plunged .74°F since Gore released *An Inconvenient Truth*

June 2009 saw another drop in global temps.

by Marc Morano, 5 July 2009

The latest global averaged satellite temperature data for June 2009 reveals yet **another drop in the Earth's temperature**.

This latest drop in global temperatures means despite his dire warnings, the Earth has cooled .74°F since former Vice President Al Gore released *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006.

According to the latest global satellite data courtesy of the [University of Alabama in Huntsville](#) and made into an [easy to read graph](#) by [algorelied.com](#): "For the record, this month's Al Gore *An Inconvenient Truth* Index indicates that global temperatures have plunged approximately .74°F (.39°C) since Gore's film was released," noted [algorelied.com](#). (See satellite temperature chart [here](#) with key dates noted, courtesy of [www.Algorelied.com](#)—Also see: [8 Year Downtrend Continues in Global Temps](#))

Gore—who is fond of saying the Earth has a "fever"—has not yet addressed the simple fact that global temperatures have dropped since the release of his global warming film. (Gore has also not addressed this: [Another Moonwalker Defies Gore: NASA Astronaut Dr. Buzz Aldrin rejects global warming fears: 'Climate has been changing for billions of years'—Moonwalkers Defy Gore's Claim That Climate Skeptics Are Akin To Those Who Believe Moon Landing was 'Staged'](#) ... **More, including more than 20 links to additional evidence:** <http://www.climatepot.com/a/1799/Earths-Fever-Breaks-Global-temperatures-have-plunged-74degF-since-Gore-released-An-Inconvenient-Truth>

Two **outstanding** pieces on Sarah Palin.

A short one:

What If Palin Were President?

by David Harsanyi, 10 July 2009

<http://www.creators.com/opinion/david-harsanyi/what-if-palin-were-president.html>

And a long one:

Sarah 'Barracuda' Palin and the Piranhas of the Press

by Carl Cannon, 8 July 2009

<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2009/07/08/sarah-barracuda-palin-and-the-piranhas-of-the-press/>

The Excuses Begin

by Jennifer Rubin, 9 July 2009

Democrats are in a bit of a jam on the **stimulus**, as many reporters have noticed: "Democrats are all over the map on the stimulus and the possibility of a sequel, and it's not hard to see why: When it comes to a second stimulus, they may be damned if they do and damned if they don't." But there is *nothing they would have done differently*, right? That phrase may prove to be this administration's "Mission Accomplished" banner.

The current excuse — that somehow the administration didn't understand how severe the crisis was — isn't going over so well. In fact, it's so easily disproved by rolling back the tapes of all the gloom-and-doom talk that permeated the president's remarks in the early days of his term, that his critics are having a field day...

...The simple truth is the stimulus was ill-conceived and poorly executed. Sooner or later, the president and his advisers will need to acknowledge that deferring to Nancy Pelosi to devise a grab-bag of goodies for liberal interest groups wasn't smart politics or smart policy.

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/72652>

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

—Margaret Thatcher

In Obamacare, Middle Class Gets the Shaft

by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 8 July 2009

...In its competition with FedEx and UPS, the Post Office at least has to provide a service. But the "public option" would merely use government's coercive powers to dictate prices and availability of services provided by others — by doctors, nurses, hospitals, etc. **Private insurance can't similarly fix prices and would be run out of business.**

Lower reimbursement rates, coupled with a dwindling pool of private insurers to whom to pass on costs, would mean lower incomes for medical professionals. The eventual result would be fewer people entering the medical profession.

A two-tiered system would then emerge: The very rich would take their spots like first-class passengers on the Titanic,

paying for fine care and not asking the price. The rest of us would take our spots in steerage class, awaiting the inevitable collision between government-run health care and the iceberg of budgetary disaster.

White House budget director Peter Orszag recently opined that "the deficit impact of every other fiscal policy variable" is "swamped" by the deficit-threat posed by Medicare and Medicaid. Obama's solution? A massive new Medicare-like program!

Medicare may not pay much to doctors, but taxpayers pay plenty to Medicare. As my recent Pacific Research Institute study shows, since 1970, Medicare's costs have risen 34% more, per patient, than the costs of all health care in America apart from Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare's costs have risen \$2,511 more per patient.

Across nearly four decades, government-run health care has been far more expensive than privately run care. It comes down to a simple comparison and an obvious verdict: Privately run care offers choice and is cheaper. Government-run care denies choice and is more expensive.

But the particular losers under Obama-Care would be the middle class. The uninsured poor would largely benefit, although they might benefit even more — while hurting others far less — from fixing the unfairness in the tax code and giving them the health care tax-break that millions of insured Americans already enjoy...

Entire column: <http://ibdeditorials.com/ibdarticles.aspx?id=331943783298135>

Mr. Kahane assumes the persona of a Democrat, and reveals how they really think.

I Still Hate You, Sarah Palin

The Republicans bring a knife to a gunfight, and lose again.

by David Kahane, 7 July 2009

...In other words, stop thinking of the Democratic Party as merely a political party, because it's much more than that. We're not just the party of slavery, segregation, secularism, and sedition. Not just the party of Aaron Burr, Boss Tweed, Richard J. Croker, Bull Connor, Chris Dodd, Richard Daley, Bill Ayers, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, and Emperor Barack Hussein Obama II. Not just the party of Kendall "Agent 202" Myers, the State Department official recruited as a Cuban spy along with his wife during the Carter administration. Rather, think of the Democratic Party as what it really is: a criminal organization masquerading as a political party.

If you had any sense, you would start using our tactics against us. After all, you have a few lawyers on your side. Sue us. File frivolous ethics complaints against all our elected officials until, like Sarah, they go broke from defending themselves. (David Paterson would be a good place to start.) Challenge the constitutionality of BO²'s legion of fill-in-the-blank czars — none of whom have to be confirmed, or even pass a security check. (Come to think of it, neither did Barry.) Let slip your own journalistic dogs of war, assuming you have any, to find Barry's birth certificate, his college transcripts, whether he applied to Occidental as a foreign student, and on which passport he traveled in 1981 to Pakistan with his friend Wahid Hamid, for starters...

...In Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*, "the fourth rule is: *Make the enemy live up to their own book of rules.*" This is the book that "Reset" Rodham (what ever happened to her?) and BHO II grew up reading and continue to live by. If you don't understand that that's the way we see you — as *the enemy* — then you're too dumb to survive. Remember that for us politics is not just an avocation, or even just a job, but our *life*. We literally stay awake nights thinking up ways to screw you. And one of the ways we do that is by religiously observing Alinsky's Rule No. 4...

The whole brilliant thing:

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NDE3MmE5MDVmMGMIYjQ2NmVhMjJkN2I2ZTcxMzhINjU=>

(Hat tip: Ann Marie)

Outstanding coverage continues at Atlas Shrugs:

Iran Revolution Day 26:

Thousands Return To The Streets In Iran, Shootings Reported

by Pamela Geller, 9 July 2009

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/07/iran-revolution-day-26-thousands-return-to-the-streets-in-iran-armed-clashes-.html

If **they** want a race war, where everyone's uniform is the pigment of his skin, this is the way to start it.

And **they** are going to lose.

Akron police investigate black mob attack on white family

by Phil Trexler, 7 July 2009

<http://www.ohio.com/news/50172282.html>

Another wimp Democrat president who "lusts in his heart."

Way de White Wimmen At?

http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/slideshow/photo//090709/ids_photos_wl/r3356552547.jpg/

Don't bother with the blather of these "leaders." Just scroll down to the Comments section, click "Read All Comments," and you'll see that *Times* readers all over the world think global warming is just a bunch of hooey.

G8 leaders claim historic breakthrough on new deal to tackle global warming

9 July 2009

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article6670327.ece>

Venezuela blackmails Honduras by cutting off its oil

8 July 2009

Venezuela, a rogue, anti-American country under the heel of strongman dictator Hugo Chavez, says it won't deliver any more oil to Honduras until the would-be Honduran dictator **Manuel Zelaya** is restored to power. Ordinarily, Venezuela sells Honduras 20,000 barrels of petroleum per day.

A minister of Venezuela's Communist government had the gall to say "We cannot transfer the benefits of Petrocaribe to a dictatorship, and much less to a small group of industrialists who were responsible for a coup d'etat."

The Triumph of Crony Capitalism

by Fred Barnes, 8 July 2009 (July 13 issue)

...There's a name for all this: crony capitalism. Obama insists he believes in capitalism, but it's not the free market variety that he's been promoting since he became president. Obamanomics is a different strain entirely.

Crony capitalism is usually identified with Third World despots, like Hugo Chávez, who reward their friends and allies in the business and financial communities. Some might be appointed to top government jobs, as Rattner was. But the chief characteristic of crony capitalism is favoritism for some companies or organizations (unions, for example)—in loans, grants, giveaways, and specific policies.

There's another aspect. Obama isn't merely rewarding a few cronies, he's seeking more and more favored groups to reward. One way he's doing this is through his energy, health care, and other policies, which would boost certain companies and industries over others. Another way is by providing cheap capital, which gives firms an advantage over competitors who must acquire capital at higher interest rates in private markets. The Federal Reserve, along with Obama's Treasury Department, plays a big role here.

The effect of Obama's approach to business has been enormous. In less than six months, he's changed the relationship between the private sector and Washington. Companies increasingly "compete for government favoritism, not for consumer choice or preferences," says Republican representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

"Members of Congress are being besieged with calls from businesses who have an expectation of getting a check from Washington," Ryan says. "The business mindset is, if the government is going to pick winners and losers, I want to be a winner. What it means is all roads lead to Washington."

Crony capitalism is a two-way street. Obama gains politically from it. His administration has guaranteed \$306 billion in toxic assets (mostly subprime mortgages) held by Citigroup and taken a 34 percent ownership stake in the giant investment bank. In return, Citigroup lobbied Congress to give judges "cramdown" authority, the power to alter the terms of housing contracts. The legislation was defeated...

Some scandalous details: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/016/695beqni.asp>

Reversing Sotomayor

The Ricci decision points to ongoing controversies about race.

by Terry Eastland, 7 July 2009 (July 13 issue)

...The four dissenting justices, meanwhile, made plain their belief that the *Ricci* decision will be undone in short order. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote, joined by Justices John Paul Stevens, Stephen Breyer, and Souter, "The Court's order and opinion, I anticipate, will not have staying power."

Ricci could suffer that fate. The firefighters' complaint alleged violations of both the Constitution (the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Court found it unnecessary to address constitutional questions since it disposed of the case under Title VII. That means the *Ricci* decision is a purely statutory case, and a Congress that is overwhelmingly Democratic could try to pass a law overruling it. Hill Democrats are already working on a bill. Thus, while the case has been decided, the battle is not over. At stake in any legislative battle is the vitality of the principle of nondiscrimination...

...In a brief concurring opinion, Justice Antonin Scalia made clear his own belief that the majority opinion was inadequate in its efforts to limit the racial discrimination that the disparate impact provision often produces. *Ricci*, he said, "merely postpones the evil day on which the Court will have to confront" a question it has never addressed—and which the mere raising of shocked Ginsburg—"Whether, or to what extent, are the disparate impact provisions of Title VII...consistent with the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection?" Here Scalia put his finger on another set of laws potentially in conflict, and one of more significance.

As Scalia explained, the disparate impact provisions of Title VII "place a racial thumb on the scales, often requiring employers to evaluate the racial outcomes of their policies and to make decisions based on (because of) those racial outcomes"—decisions that will be discriminatory. Yet the higher law of the Constitution, as interpreted by the Court, demands that government, including in what it requires by statute of both private and public employers, treat all citizens equally as individuals and not as mere components of racial groups. Nor does it excuse racial discrimination on grounds of an ostensibly "benign" motive...

Read the whole column: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/016/691bv1v.asp>

Palin's Plan

by Roger Stone, 7 July 2009

It was 1962. Richard Nixon had had enough. Enough of being called "Tricky Dick, the man no one would buy a used car from." Enough of the elitist derision that had come his way since the Hiss case. He had had enough of the liberal media who consistently held him to a higher standard than his Democratic opponents and poked fun at his lack of sophistication—he being the son of a grocer. So Nixon blew. He announced the end of his career in seeking elective office; "You won't have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference." Six years later he was inaugurated as President of the United States.

This moment came last week for Sarah Palin and her husband Todd...

...Watching the Washington chattering class pan the Palin moves shows the moronic level of political analysis in the media today...Palin could accomplish nothing more as Governor to burnish her "experience" credentials. Nuisance lawsuits and ethics complaints from garden variety left-wing nuts were costing her hundreds of thousands of dollars and paralyzing state government. The lot of the Governor is painful cuts and delivering bad news for the next 18 months. Who needs it?...

Like Nixon, Palin needs some rehabilitation to her political image caused by the relentless attacks of the elitist media, the knife-work of the relatively talentless Republican Party pros like Steve Schmidt and her own self-inflicted wounds from the post-election period that were born out of inexperience at this level of political combat. Like Nixon, Palin can re-make herself in the controlled environment of television. Instead of being tortured by smug media types like Katie Couric, Palin can demonstrate her better understanding of issues and articulate a case against Obama. She can be folksy and plain-spoken and above all, 'smart'...

Read the rest: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/07/07/palins_plan_97333.html July 7, 2009

Desperate Deal

Obama's Moscow Giveaway.
by *Ralph Peters*, 7 July 2009

President Obama went to Moscow desperate for the appearance of a foreign-policy success. He got that illusion—at a substantial cost to America's security.

The series of signing ceremonies in a grand Kremlin hall and the litany of agreements, accords and frameworks implied that the United States benefited from all the fuss. We didn't. We got nothing of real importance. But the government of puppet-master Vladimir Putin (nominally just prime minister) got virtually all it wanted. In Moscow, this was Christmas in July...

...Putin sought to cripple our ability to respond to international crises. Obama, meanwhile, was out for "deliverables"—deals that could be signed in front of the cameras. Each man got what he wanted. President Obama even expressed an interest in further nuclear-weapons cuts. Peace in our time, ladies and gentlemen, peace in our time . . .

We just agreed to the disarmament position of the American Communist Party of the 1950s.

The Russians also enjoyed our president's empathy for their position on missile defense. Apparently, Eastern Europe really does belong to the Kremlin's sphere of influence.

Read it all: http://www.nypost.com/seven/07072009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/desperate_deal_177977.htm

A U.S./U.N. Plot Against Anti-Communist Honduras

by *Cliff Kincaid*, 1 July 2009

The people of Honduras are pleading for media fairness and understanding of how they saved their democratic system of government from an international conspiracy based in Venezuela and Cuba. In desperate messages to the outside world, Hondurans want America to know they do not want former President Manuel "Mel" Zelaya returned to power through the intervention of the United States and the United Nations.

On Tuesday the leftist governments of Barack Obama and Hugo Chavez sponsored a United Nations resolution that condemned the people of Honduras for resisting the spread of communism by evicting a would-be dictator. Many people in Honduras view "Mel" as a puppet of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, who is destroying the democratic system and the opposition in that country.

In Honduras, demonstrators have appealed to the media to tell the truth. One sign said in Spanish: "CNN: That the entire world opens its eyes...Honduras wants peace not a dictatorship."

Our media are content to report on the turnout of a couple hundred pro-Zelaya protesters in Honduras, ignoring the many thousands that have demonstrated in support of what their government has done. Some of the demonstrators carried signs saying, "Peace and democracy. Out with Mel and Chavez." Others said, "Democracy yes; communism no."

A "Tribute to the Heroes of Honduras" has been **posted on the web** and captures the true sentiments of the people of Honduras...

Read the rest: <http://www.aim.org/aim-column/a-u.s.-u.n.-plot-against-anti-communist-honduras/>

Obama's mythography: An Orwellian disaster

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review editorial, 7 July 2009

President Barack Obama's Orwellian rhetoric has become absolutely pathological. And it's become so blatant that you can almost guarantee that the truth is the exact opposite of what he says. To wit:

The president insisted he had no intention of taking over Chrysler and General Motors.

He did.

The president calls "cap-and-trade" environmental legislation a "market-based" approach, based on "sound science."

It is not.

The president claims his health care reform plan is not "socialized medicine."

It is.

He claims it won't harm private insurance.

It will.

He claims service won't be rationed.

But to control costs as he proposes, it must be. (Even top aides concede the point.)

Mr. Obama says he supports "democracy" in Latin America.

How can he? He also supports the Marxist ways of Manuel Zelaya, legally removed from Honduras' presidency by the constitutional actions of the legislative and judicial branches.

And the examples of this president's mythography go on and on.

Some will dismiss Barack Obama's pronouncements merely as "rhetoric" and "posturing." "Everybody does it," they'll say. "It's politics." But this is different and decidedly more dangerous: The president of the United States says one thing and does another and claims things that cannot possibly be. Whether by delusion or by design, Barack Obama is being dishonest with the American people. And that is a harbinger of national disaster.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_632488.html

Stuttering Stimulus

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 6 July 2009

"The truth is, there was a misreading of just how bad an economy we inherited," Vice President Joe Biden told ABC News. Really? What about the "worst economy since the Great Depression"?

...If the stimulus passed, the White House vowed, unemployment would peak at 8%. Today, it's 9.5% — and rising.

"The truth is, we and everyone else misread the economy," said Biden. He used that phrase — "the truth is," or something similar — at least three times in a talk with ABC's George Stephanopolous. But the "truth is" something quite different. Many voices — including ours — were raised in opposition to the stimulus when it was debated. We didn't "misread" the economy. We knew from history that, left alone, it would get better without government meddling...

...Those who argue doing nothing wasn't an option are wrong. We would now be emerging from this recession if the government had left well enough alone. The Fed's interest-rate cuts to zero last December would have been plenty.

Instead, we're facing the worst recovery since the Depression, and the entrepreneurs who fuel job growth are hunkering down to weather planned tax hikes in the trillions of dollars.

More: <http://ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=331771901584018>

The central conservative truth is that it is culture, not politics, that determines the success of a society. The central liberal truth is that politics can change a culture and save it from itself.

—Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Why the ancient Greek writers still matter today

Hugh Hewitt Show, 2 July 2009 hour 3

Two literary classicists and philosophers, John Mark Reynolds (Biola University) and David Allen White (just retired after 30 years at Annapolis), explain what the Framers borrowed from the ancient Greeks, and why we ought to care today.

Listen: <http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/TalkRadio/Show.aspx?RadioShowID=5&ContentGuid=48380a03-e9ae-432f-9743-d6ef1b70d189>

Bloodhound: Where Are the Jobs?

video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl_q0afUI0E

California's Nightmare Will Kill Obamanomics

by Kevin Hassett, 6 July 2009

...California has engaged in an orgy of spending, but, compared with our federal government, its legislators should feel chaste. The California deficit this year is now north of \$26 billion. The U.S. federal deficit will be, according to the latest numbers, almost 70 times larger.

The federal picture is so bleak because the Obama administration is the most fiscally irresponsible in the history of the U.S. I would imagine that he would be the intergalactic champion as well, if we could gather the data on deficits on other worlds. Obama has taken George W. Bush's inattention to deficits and elevated it to an art form.

The Obama administration has no shame, and is willing to abandon reason altogether to achieve its short-term political goals. Ronald Reagan ran up big deficits in part because he believed that his tax cuts would produce economic growth, and ultimately pay for themselves. He may well have been excessively optimistic about the merits of tax cuts, but at least he had a story.

Obama has no story. Nobody believes that his unprecedented expansion of the welfare state will lead to enough economic growth. Nobody believes that it will pay for itself. Everyone understands that higher spending today begets higher spending tomorrow. That means that his economic strategy simply doesn't add up....

Full column: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aTKrn1jUJwdE>

Saudis give nod to Israeli raid on Iran

Uzi Mahnaimi in Tel Aviv and Sarah Baxter, 5 July 2009

The head of Mossad, Israel's overseas intelligence service, has assured Benjamin Netanyahu, its prime minister, that Saudi Arabia would turn a blind eye to Israeli jets flying over the kingdom during any future raid on Iran's nuclear sites..."The Saudis have tacitly agreed to the Israeli air force flying through their airspace on a mission which is supposed to be in the common interests of both Israel and Saudi Arabia," a diplomatic source said last week...

...Recent developments have underscored concerns among moderate Sunni Arab states about the stability of the repressive Shi'ite regime in Tehran and have increased fears that it may emerge as a belligerent nuclear power.

"The Saudis are very concerned about an Iranian nuclear bomb, even more than the Israelis," said a former head of research in Israeli intelligence...

More: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article6638568.ece

Thunderous applause greets former President George W. Bush on July 4

WOODWARD, Okla. (AP)—Former President George W. Bush was greeted by thunderous applause on the Fourth of July as he told thousands of spectators in a rural Oklahoma rodeo arena that the U.S. was "the greatest nation on the face of the earth."

Bush was given six standing ovations as he spoke on a warm, humid evening in GOP-friendly Woodward, a town of about 12,000 residents in northwest Oklahoma and the latest in a handful of out-of-the-way places Bush has visited since leaving office.

During a 30-minute speech mostly devoid of political references—he mentioned his successor, Barack Obama, just once in passing—Bush thanked members of the military, spoke about the bravery of injured soldiers he'd met and told stories of people in difficult situations helping others. "Patriotism comes in all different kinds of forms," he said. "Freedom is beautiful, freedom is precious, freedom must always be defended."...

More: <http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Thunderous-applause-greets-former-President/e1e1vKhQ0Sx0MoJFKn7UQ.csp?rss=68>

Green Nonsense

by Jack Kelly, 5 July 2009

..."Global temperatures have declined—extending the current downtrend to 11 years with a particularly rapid decline in 2007-2008," said a draft report written in March by an expert at the Environmental Protection Agency.

You haven't heard much about this report because the Obama administration is blocking its disclosure. The Competitive Enterprise Institute obtained a copy and **put it on its website** June 25.

Believers in anthropogenic (man-made) global warming are relying on outdated research and are ignoring major new developments, the report said. Natural factors—chiefly ocean and sun cycles—are the principal causes of global temperature fluctuations...

...The whole point of cap and trade—which President Obama is careful not to make explicit—is to make fossil fuels so expensive we will use less of them. The president won't call this a tax. But his most prominent supporter in the business community, billionaire investor Warren Buffett, thinks it's one which will devastate an economy already in shambles. "It's a huge tax and there is no sense calling it anything else," Mr. Buffett said in a CNBC interview June 24...

...Mr. Obama calls Waxman-Markey a jobs bill, on the specious assumption it will create more jobs building windmills and solar panels than it will destroy in the coal, oil and natural gas industries and in the industries dependent upon them. But Charles River Associates, a Harvard-based economic consulting firm, estimates the **net loss of jobs** at about 2.5 million a year...

...Waxman-Markey contains unpleasant surprises for Americans, including a provision which **could prevent** homeowners from selling their homes if they aren't retrofitted to meet federal "green" guidelines. But the House passed the 1,400-page bill before its members had an opportunity to read it, much less ponder its implications. Let's pray the Senate is

more responsible.

Complete column: <http://post-gazette.com/pg/09186/981471-373.stm>

Obama Has Gotten It Wrong for Twenty-Five Years

by Jennifer Rubin, 5 July 2009

Those who suspect the president is engaged in a bit of dangerous self-delusion and denial about certain unpleasant realities regarding the threats from rogue states won't be heartened to read that his current non-proliferation fetish stems, at least according to the *New York Times*, from his college infatuation with the nuclear freeze movement. Apparently, youthful Obama did not focus on the results from Ronald Reagan's refusal to buy into the fantasies of liberals—namely the fall of the Soviet Empire. That lesson has entirely eluded now-president Obama. Is it any wonder his critics find his posture fraught with peril and entirely out-of-touch with the threats we face?...

...And really, what excuse is there for Obama's ludicrous worldview? Unlike student Obama, President Obama knows how the Cold War ended. And it wasn't by disarming America.

Read the rest: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/72321>

Iranian Revolution Day 23:

Neda Soltani, the symbol of Iranian Resistance, was a Christian

by Pamela Geller, 5 July 2009

In the media's ongoing campaign to institute the agenda of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and advance Islam, it has been previously withheld from the public that Neda Soltani was a Christian.

That Neda was a Christian is ample proof that everyone in Iran who took to the streets was marching for liberty and one man one vote. How vile to imply that millions marched for the inside politicking of Islamic cleric rule. Her religion flies in the face of every cold blooded pundit who has attempted to dismiss this historic movement as simply more sharia in shades of green...

More, including a picture that proves it: http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/07/iranian-revolution-day-23-neda-soltani-the-symbol-of-iranian-resistance-was-a-christian.html

The Never-Ending Pork Parade

by Jonah Goldberg, 4 July 2009

... We're now stuck with some of the most absurdly counterproductive legislation imaginable. The national debt is growing faster than the GDP. According to the Congressional Budget Office, within 10 years Uncle Sam's publicly held debt will double to 82 percent of GDP. The CBO predicts that by 2038, our debt will be 200 percent of GDP. Debt siphons off growth for the simple reason that dollars go to paying it off rather than investing in something productive... We are a "net debtor" to the tune of \$3.47 trillion. That represents a 62 percent increase over 2007. Foreigners, most significantly China, own nearly 50 percent of our government's public debt.

So while the Obama administration frets over the largely phony idea that we are dangerously dependent on foreign oil (Canada sends us as much oil as the Persian Gulf region, and Mexico not much less), we are increasingly threatened by dependence on foreign bondholders who could wreak havoc on the dollar and our interest rates far more easily than OPEC could cut off our oil.

And what are we doing in response? For starters, the House passed carbon cap-and-trade legislation that essentially adds an onerous and inefficient energy tax on everyone, outsources jobs to carbon-profligate India and China and raises tariffs in an attempt to stem the inevitable bleeding of jobs and manufacturing. (The last time we raised tariffs in the midst of a bad recession, we got the Depression.)...

... Even if you think climate change is a huge threat, the bill's own supporters admit its impact on global warming will be trivial. But, we're told, we must lead by example. Of course, we've led by example in refusing to exploit our oil reserves for three decades, and so far no one has followed us.

Then there's health-care "reform," aspects of which the administration insists will save money. But according to the CBO, the whole thing will cost \$1 trillion to \$1.6 trillion. The savings will allegedly come from government-imposed efficiency—which approaches "jumbo shrimp" as an oxymoron. It's funny how nobody has been talking up Medicare as a

source of huge savings, and yet that's the model: Medicare for everyone...

More: http://www.nypost.com/seven/07042009/postopinon/opedcolumnists/the_never_ending_pork_parade_177485.htm?page=0

Cutting Bait

by Mark Steyn, 3 July 2009

...As a political move for anything other than the 2010 Senate race, today's announcement is a disaster. And I'm not sure it's a plus for the Senate—and, even if it were, the manner and timing suggest it was not a professionally planned event and therefore is unlikely to have any grand strategy behind it...

...Most of those who sneer at Sarah Palin have no desire to live her life. But why not try to—what's the word—"empathize"? If you like Wasilla and hunting and snowmachining and moose stew and politics, is the last worth giving up everything else in the hopes that one day David Letterman and Maureen Dowd might decide Trig and Bristol and the rest are sufficiently non-risible to enable you to prosper in their world? And, putting aside the odds, would you really like to be the person you'd have to turn into under that scenario?

National office will dwindle down to the unhealthily singleminded (Clinton, Obama), the timeserving emirs of Incumbistan (Biden, McCain) and dynastic heirs (Bush). Our loss.

The rest: <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=N2ZiOTA5MmU0MjQ0ODJmNWl3OGQ4ZTg2ZGE1Nzg5NmE=>

How Palin's Resignation Makes Her the True Frontrunner

by John Batchelor, 3 July 2009

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2009-07-03/how-vanity-fairs-palin-profile-helps-her/full/>

A 'coup' in Honduras? Nonsense.

Don't believe the myth. The arrest of President Zelaya represents the triumph of the rule of law.

by Octavio Sánchez, 2 July 2009

...These are the facts: On June 26, President Zelaya issued a decree ordering all government employees to take part in the "Public Opinion Poll to convene a National Constitutional Assembly." In doing so, Zelaya triggered a constitutional provision that automatically removed him from office.

Constitutional assemblies are convened to write new constitutions. When Zelaya published that decree to initiate an "opinion poll" about the possibility of convening a national assembly, he contravened the unchangeable articles of the Constitution that deal with the prohibition of reelecting a president and of extending his term. His actions showed intent.

Our Constitution takes such intent seriously. According to Article 239: "No citizen who has already served as head of the Executive Branch can be President or Vice-President. Whoever violates this law or *proposes its reform* [emphasis added], as well as those that support such violation directly or indirectly, will *immediately* cease in their functions and will be unable to hold any public office for a period of 10 years."

Notice that the article speaks about intent and that it also says "immediately"—as in "instant," as in "no trial required," as in "no impeachment needed."

Continuismo—the tendency of heads of state to extend their rule indefinitely—has been the lifeblood of Latin America's authoritarian tradition. The Constitution's provision of instant sanction might sound draconian, but every Latin American democrat knows how much of a threat to our fragile democracies *continuismo* presents. In Latin America, chiefs of state have often been above the law. The instant sanction of the supreme law has successfully prevented the possibility of a new Honduran *continuismo*.

The Supreme Court and the attorney general ordered Zelaya's arrest for disobeying several court orders compelling him to obey the Constitution. He was detained and taken to Costa Rica. Why? Congress needed time to convene and remove him from office. With him inside the country that would have been impossible. This decision was taken by the 123 (of the 128) members of Congress present that day...

More: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0702/p09s03-coop.html>

The EPA Silences a Climate Skeptic

by Kimberley Strassel, 3 July 2009

...In March, the Obama EPA prepared to engage the global-warming debate in an astounding new way, by issuing an "endangerment" finding on carbon. It establishes that carbon is a pollutant, and thereby gives the EPA the authority to regulate it—even if Congress doesn't act.

Around this time, Mr. Carlin and a colleague presented a 98-page analysis arguing the agency should take another look, as the science behind man-made global warming is inconclusive at best. The analysis noted that global temperatures were on a downward trend. It pointed out problems with climate models. It highlighted new research that contradicts apocalyptic scenarios. "We believe our concerns and reservations are sufficiently important to warrant a serious review of the science by EPA," the report read.

The response to Mr. Carlin was an email from his boss, Al McGartland, forbidding him from "any direct communication" with anyone outside of his office with regard to his analysis. When Mr. Carlin tried again to disseminate his analysis, Mr. McGartland decreed: "The administrator and the administration have decided to move forward on endangerment, and your comments do not help the legal or policy case for this decision. . . . I can only see one impact of your comments given where we are in the process, and that would be a very negative impact on our office." (Emphasis added.)...

...In refusing to allow Mr. Carlin's study to be circulated, the agency essentially hid it from the docket. Unable to defend the EPA's actions, the climate-change crew—led by anonymous EPA officials—is doing what it does best: trashing Mr. Carlin as a "denier." He is, we are told, "only" an economist (he in fact holds a degree in physics from CalTech). It wasn't his "job" to look at this issue (he in fact works in an office tasked with "informing important policy decisions with sound economics and other sciences.") His study was full of sham science. (The majority of it in fact references peer-reviewed studies.) Where's Mr. Hansen and his defense of scientific freedom when you really need him?

Mr. Carlin is instead an explanation for why the science debate is little reported in this country. The professional penalty for offering a contrary view to elites like Al Gore is a smear campaign. The global-warming crowd likes to deride skeptics as the equivalent of the Catholic Church refusing to accept the Copernican theory. The irony is that, today, it is those who dare critique the new religion of human-induced climate change who face the Inquisition.

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124657655235589119.html>

Learn from France—and consider banning the burka

by Christopher Hitchens, 1 July 2009

...The imposition of burkas or even head scarfs on women—just like the compulsory growing of beards for men—is the symbol of a denial of rights and the inflicting of a tyrannical code that obliterates personal liberty.

Western masochism about other people's "culture" often obscures this obvious fact. Think of the things that we all have to do now, like submitting to humiliating searches at airports, or showing our ID to people who have no "probable cause" for demanding it. Can we turn up at airport security wearing a bag over our heads? Can we produce a photograph that shows only our eyes through a slit? Of course not. Nor can anyone in a Muslim country (though of course in Saudi Arabia an unchaperoned women cannot turn up at the airport anyway).

And don't force me to say this, even though I will: One reason we have to undergo such indignities is because of faith-based suicide attacks on our civil aviation, and so far the perpetrators of this nightmare have not been caught wearing crucifixes or Stars of David around their necks...

...It is depressing that our President, in addressing the Muslim world, takes the most reactionary religious practice as the symbol of rights and identity. The klan's hood, remember, is also the symbol of a white Protestant religious "identity" movement. We may be too constitutionally squeamish to ban the klan regalia outright, but we are entitled to our prejudice against those who choose to assert themselves in this way, and I would shudder for the country if this prejudice ever showed any sign of weakening.

More: http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/07/01/2009-07-01_learn_from_france__and_consider_banning_the_burka.html?print=1&page=all

"It does not take a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brush fires of freedom in the minds of men."

—Samuel Adams (1722-1803)

Fourth of July special

City Upon a Hill

One of the Great Communicator's best speeches EVER. It was delivered at the first annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), on 25 January 1974. It's a superb elucidation of what America, and Americans, are all about.

Read it all: http://reagan2020.us/speeches/City_Upon_A_Hill.asp

Remembering What the Declaration of Independence is Not

by Bruce Walker, 3 July 2009

When we celebrate the Fourth of July, we are celebrating one of the most important political documents in the history of the world. The Declaration is a statement to the world—the people of the world was the audience—about the very nature of government and its relationship to men. Sometimes we appreciate what this document was, but perhaps we need even more to appreciate what it was not.

It was not a poll-driven summation of current opinion. The men who gathered in Philadelphia did respect each other's talents and knowledge, but the document they signed was not driven by the latest Gallup or Zogby poll results. What was right and true was not dependent upon popular opinion.

The signers did not even seek a vote of the people. No referendum was necessary for the Declaration of Independence and it might well have failed in some of the colonies. The "will of the people," so precious to demagogues, did not determine what was right and true. The people can fall for Hitler, adore Obama, and be enchanted by silly or wicked men. The purpose of government, as the Declaration clearly states, is to secure liberty and not to implement that dubious, inconstant sentiment "the will of the people."

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence represented the absolute opposite of "interest group politics" so slavishly worshipped in political science departments. They pledged their lives, their wealth, their liberty, and their honor—everything—on a toss of the dice...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/07/remembering_what_the_declarati_1.html

The Washington Post has a number of excellent columnists, of course: e.g. Charles Krauthammer, Robert Samuelson, and George Will. But this egregious example of influence peddling has sent the paper's credibility tumbling downward, in the direction of the New York Times.

WaPo cancels lobbyist event amid uproar

by Mike Allen and Michael Calderone, 2 July 2009

Washington Post publisher Katharine Weymouth said today she was canceling plans for an exclusive "salon" at her home where for as much as \$250,000, the Post offered lobbyists and association executives off-the-record access to "those powerful few" — **Obama** administration officials, members of Congress, and even the paper's own reporters and editors.

The astonishing offer was detailed in a flier circulated Wednesday to a **health care** lobbyist, who provided it to a reporter because the lobbyist said he felt it was a conflict for the paper to charge for access to, as the flier says, its "health care reporting and editorial staff."

With the Post newsroom in an uproar after *Politico* reported the solicitation, Weymouth said in an email to the staff that "a flier went out that was prepared by the Marketing department and was never vetted by me or by the newsroom. Had it been, the flier would have been immediately killed, because it completely misrepresented what we were trying to do."

More: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0709/24441.html>

Let's hope and pray Senator Conrad is right—and that he's telling the truth. He is a Democrat, after all.

'Reconciliation' to Pass Health Bill Won't Work

by Mort Kondracke, 1 July 2009

Liberal health reform advocates have talked about ramming a reform plan—including a Medicare-like public insurance option—through the Senate with only 51 Democratic votes. But a leading Senate player says it won't work.

If an attempt is made to pass health reform under "reconciliation" rules—requiring just a simple majority vote—Senate Budget Chairman Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) told me, the bill would be so pared down, "you'd be left with Swiss cheese." Conrad also serves on the Finance Committee, which will mark up its version of health care reform in July.

Reconciliation rules, he said, require that a bill be scored as deficit-reducing over six years and that any substantive policy change in it also have a fiscal purpose. The result, said Conrad, is that "you'd be left with a dramatically reduced

package" that would fall short of comprehensive health reform. "You would have a very hard time expanding coverage to the 46 million who don't have it," he said, and the "Byrd Rule"—requiring fiscal germaneness—could strip the bill of many of its policy provisions.

So, Conrad said, "health reform needs to be passed on a 60-vote basis, and that means it needs to be bipartisan." And that, he said, all but certainly rules out including a government-run "public plan" like Medicare designed to "compete with"—or replace—private insurance companies.

Conrad said he expected it will require up to six Republican votes to pass health reform in the Senate, but only one Republican—Sen. Olympia Snowe (Maine)—has indicated she'd support any sort of public plan, and then only as a fallback...

Continue: <http://www.rollcall.com/news/36403-1.html>

Chinese bloggers hail Green Dam 'victory'

by Kathrin Hille in Beijing, 1 July 2009

A garden party in east Beijing billed as a protest against a government plan to fit all computers with **Green Dam**, a controversial web filtering software, turned into a celebration on Wednesday after the programme was postponed...

...The incident resembles attempts to shut foreign encryption technology out of the Chinese market in 2000 and to force the global electronics industry to sign up to WAPI, a domestically-developed wireless standard, in 2004. These two cases highlight how Beijing might deal with Green Dam in the future.

"They have said they'll delay it, and 'delay' is code for total re-evaluation and potential scrapping," said Duncan Clark, chairman of BDA, a telecom and media consultancy. "However, as we think these things are driven by the idea that indigenous innovation must be promoted, the people behind this will keep pushing, and this might come back at us in the future from some unexpected corner."...

... Industry sources said on Wednesday that PC makers would not settle with a mere 'delay' and hope for the best. "We still need the dialogue the US government has called for, and it will have to lead to a clear message that this is over," said one lobbyist.

If that does not work, the industry might need the help of China's netizens again. In a reminder of how much attention Beijing has come to pay to their voice, the People's Daily, the Communist party's mouthpiece, acknowledged on Wednesday the authorities had lost their total control over the spread of information. "In the internet era, everyone has the potential to become a channel for information," it said in an editorial. "It is as though everyone has a microphone in front of them."

Full story: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/744ae9be-6639-11de-a034-00144feabdc0.html>

The New Republic's literary editor is a liberal on domestic matters, as certified by his **weakness on economics**. But in foreign policy, he strongly supports freedom over tyranny.

The Long Arc

by Leon Wieseltier, 1 July 2009 (July 15 issue)

...Obama seems to think that there is some force in the admonition that the world is watching; but history plentifully demonstrates that when the world is watching, all the world does is watch...

...With their defense of Obama's dilatoriness about the revolt in Tehran, American liberals compromised themselves. They succumbed to the Council on Foreign Relations view of the world. So it is important to be clear that the strong articulation of American principles by the American president when those principles are being bravely upheld by a people in revolt against a dictator—this is not only a statement of emotion, it is also an element of strategy. It emboldens the right side. It allies the United States with peoples against regimes, which is almost always the surest foundation for the American position. (I am not an Iran expert, unlike almost everyone I meet, but I find it hard to imagine that the young men and women suffering the blows of the Basij would not welcome our support, that they are in the streets with angry thoughts of Mossadegh. If these events have shown anything, it is that their enemy and our enemy are the same.) There is nothing more sweepingly in the interest of the United States in the Middle East than the withering away of the theocracy in Iran. Every blow struck against the structure of state power in Iran is a blow struck against Hezbollah and Hamas; and a blow has at last been struck. This is one of those instances in which our planners may have some use for our principles. I understand the urgency of the nuclear issue, of course. I doubt that those centrifuges will be negotiated away; but if there is any hope for diplomacy, it lies in a political transformation in Tehran.

I do not agree that Obama's diffidence about liberation and human rights is owed entirely to a fear of nuclear

proliferation. He has another commitment. He is determined to be the un-ugly American. This excites him. He is consecrated to an engagement with the Muslim world, which is not entirely consistent with a consecration to democracy...

Full column: <http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=1e5e7d3-e378-4276-928c-3b80132221b3>

"Better" Health Care?

by John Stossel, 1 July 2009

...In England, health care is "free"—as long as you don't mind waiting. People wait so long for dentist appointments that some pull their own teeth. At any one time, half a million people are waiting to get into a British hospital. A British paper reports that one hospital tried to save money by not changing bedsheets. Instead of washing sheets, the staff was encouraged to just turn them over...

..."The more time I spent in the Canadian system, the more I came across people waiting for radiation therapy, waiting for the knee replacement so they could finally walk up to the second floor of their house." "You want to see your neurologist because of your stress headache? No problem! Just wait six months. You want an MRI? No problem! Free as the air! Just wait six months."

Polls show most Canadians like their free health care, but most people aren't sick when the poll-taker calls. Canadian doctors told us the system is cracking. One complained that he can't get heart-attack victims into the ICU.

In America, people wait in emergency rooms, too, but it's much worse in Canada. If you're sick enough to be admitted, the average wait is 23 hours. "We can't send these patients to other hospitals. Dr. Eric Letovsky told us. "Every other emergency department in the country is just as packed as we are."

More than a million and a half Canadians say they can't find a family doctor. Some towns hold lotteries to determine who gets a doctor. In Norwood, Ontario, "20/20" videotaped a town clerk pulling the names of the lucky winners out of a lottery box. The losers must wait to see a doctor.

Shirley Healy, like many sick Canadians, came to America for surgery. Her doctor in British Columbia told her she had only a few weeks to live because a blocked artery kept her from digesting food. Yet Canadian officials called her surgery "elective." "The only thing elective about this surgery was I elected to live," she said...

Read the rest—and follow the many links Mr. Stossel provides:

<http://www.americanissuesproject.org/blogs/columns/archive/2009/07/01/stossel-quot-better-quot-health-care.aspx>

Day 19 of Iran Revolution: Supporters of Opposition Hanged

by Pamela Geller, 1 July 2009

Amid the talk of despair and quashed protests, one defiant reformist supporter told this reporter: "The regime wants the world to think they have won. Don't believe it... Even if this regime is about to collapse, they would not let anybody know until their final hour."

"I've made it clear that the United States respects the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is not interfering with Iran's affairs." *Obama day before yesterday*

I would suggest Obama should watch these hangings, but that bloodless fiend wouldn't blink an eyelash.

Israel should seize this opportunity to take out Iran's nukes. This is cannot go on. Free and fair elections without "pre-selected" candidates...

Continue: http://atlashrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/07/iran-uprising-day-19-supporters-of-opposition-hanged.html

Two more marvelous posts by Pamela:

Those lips, Those Eyes!

Iran: Day 18 of the Revolution that will not die

Support Our Troops

They're still fighting for us.

Soldiers' Angels

Wounded Warrior Project

Fisher House: help military families

Our Military

Be sure to read these superb pieces:

Health Care Mythology by Clifford Asness

Just Make Stuff Up by Victor Davis Hanson

100 Stimulus Projects: A Second Opinion by Sen. Tom Coburn

The State Despot by Mark Steyn

And here's what a trillion dollars looks like.

