

Why Did Democrats Pass an Unwanted Health Care Bill?

by Bob Bowman

What conservatives tried to block has happened. Congress, run by Democrats, passed a national health care bill known as "Obamacare", or officially as H.R. 3962, "The Affordable Health Care for America Act". As an added affront, they did it on March 21, 2010, a Sunday, a day most devote to worship.

The Democrats did this despite **opposition by a majority** of U.S. citizens, as documented by poll after poll leading up to the final vote. Because of this opposition, the congressional leaders, who are Democrats, resorted to what many people see as bribery to win over the last votes necessary for the bill's passage, and this despite a strong majority of Democrats in both houses of congress. The consensus on both the right and the left is that in the elections later this year, this vote will cost the Democrats their majority in the House of Representatives, possibly also in the Senate, and even the presidency in 2012. Some pundits even say it will destroy the Democrats as a major political party for years more, if not forever.

Why would the Democrats lead their party into a likely loss of political control, and even possible political extinction, in order to pass this health care bill? A plausible answer can be seen in two recent political commentaries, one by Dennis Prager, the other by Mark Steyn.

Prager, March 9, was talking not about health care specifically, but about the trillion dollar budgets the Democrats were enacting. These dwarf the Bush budgets of 2000-2008. Already, the Democrats have run our current national debt to 53% of the GDP (GDP = Gross Domestic Product; i.e., the total annual American economy). The CBO (Congressional Budget Office) says that by 2020, the Democrats will run our **debt** up close to the size of our entire GDP. We will be more broke than even the failed states of Greece or Argentina.

As Prager points out, the Democrats have gone far beyond being merely a liberal party, or even a Socialist party. They are now a far left party, indistinguishable from the European left. The left does not create wealth, Prager says; its interest is only in **redistributing** wealth. Obama, while campaigning for the presidency, flaunted **redistribution as his goal**. American voters on average **ignored** that red flag then.

However, Prager errs to say the left is not interested in the creation of wealth. To the contrary, it is, but **negatively** so. It wants to **shut down** the creation of wealth. It wants to **reduce** human civilization to pre-industrial levels, in the name of "saving" the Earth. If U.S. voters let leftist Democrats run the show, that's what they will get: universal human poverty. That's why some pundits argue that the present Democrats are on a suicidal course, as a political party.

Steyn, March 8, addressed why Obama pushed in particular for his health care goal, even at the risk of losing future

elections for his party or himself. As Steyn puts it, even at the cost of losing political power for 2, 4 or even 10 years, they saw getting national health care as worth it. If it stands, it will redefine our citizen-state relationship so drastically as to make limited government impossible. When the left gets back into power, so they argue, the national health care they passed will still exist, embedded in bureaucracies, impervious to the comings and goings of conservative governments.

This, Steyn says, has been the experience in Europe, and also in Canada, where the welfare state, once enacted by the left, then grows and expands, even if conservatives warm the seats of putative power now and then. Of course, Steyn does note the exception of Margaret Thatcher's rule in Britain, but he quotes another politician, that the left usually wins when it bets that the right will not have the guts to repeal welfare.

Steyn is right that much of the Rooseveltian welfare state has survived conservative national governments in these last 80 years. However, the American ideal of limited central government is still one that is more deeply enshrined here than it is anywhere else in the world, except perhaps in Australia and New Zealand. New Zealand, by the way, is a nation that has found its way at least part way back from a welfare state.

Yet, a former judge, Andrew Napolitano, now a TV pundit, thinks America will surmount this leftist strategy. He says the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately strike down most of Obamacare. Obama has ripped up our constitution more completely than any president yet, Napolitano says, and **American voters** will not stand for it. Maybe the courts will serve the republic well, as he thinks, but that's not where it's really at. **It's really in the hands of the citizens.** It's what citizens let the branches of government get away with. **The judge thinks that November 2010 will strip the Democrats of their congressional power.** Well, we will see.

Napolitano points to several constitutional issues involved in Obamacare, and the stand the Supreme Court has taken in the past. The first is that Obamacare **commandeers state legislatures**, and Supreme Court decisions prohibit that. Prohibiting that for Obamacare will wipe it out.

Secondly, Obamacare mandates that every citizen buy health care, and there is no constitutional provision that authorizes that, and several that prevent it. Wiping out universal enrolment would stab at the heart of Obamacare, because all insurance requires collecting premiums from the healthy as well as the sick. Obamacare will go bankrupt and fail, if the Court strikes down this universal mandate in the legislation.

Thirdly, Obamacare created special exemptions to get votes to pass the bill, whereby certain states and certain private health care plans were exempted from the law governing the rest of us. That violates the most basic democratic principle, the **equal protection of the law for each one of us.** **How could any Democrat support such a violation of democracy? Have we already become a fascist state?** Yes, to a large degree, we have. Read Jonah Goldberg's book titled *Liberal Fascism*.

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