

Mark L. Melcher Publisher
melcher@thepoliticalforum.com

Stephen R. Soukup Editor
soukup@thepoliticalforum.com

THEY SAID IT

In a fair distribution among a vast multitude none can have much. That class of dependent pensioners called the rich is so extremely small, that, if all their throats were cut, and a distribution made of all they consume in a year, it would not give a bit of bread and cheese for one night's supper to those who labor, and who in reality feed both the pensioners and themselves.

But the throats of the rich ought not to be cut, nor their magazines plundered; because, in their persons, they are trustees for those who labor, and their hoards are the banking houses of these latter. Whether they mean it or not, they do, in effect, execute their trust,--some with more, some with less fidelity and judgment. But on the whole, the duty is performed, and everything returns, deducting some very trifling commission and discount, to the place from whence it arose.

A perfect equality will, indeed, be produced,--that is to say, equal want, equal wretchedness, equal beggary, and, on the part of the partitioners, a woeful, helpless, and desperate disappointment. Such is the event of all compulsory equalizations. They pull down what is above; they never raise what is below; and they depress high and low together beneath the level of what was originally the lowest.

Edmund Burke, "Thoughts and Details On Scarcity," 1795.

SOME THOUGHTS ON OBAMACARE.

As a couple of old country boys, it isn't very often that we agree with America's ultra suave Vice President Joe Biden, but we think he hit the proverbial nail on the head last week when he whispered in the ear of America's Dear Leader that the passage of Obamacare was a big . . . a . . . er . . . well . . . okay, on second thought, we guess we probably shouldn't quote him directly, so we'll paraphrase – when he said it was a big deal.

It was, in fact, a big deal, a very big deal. Indeed, as we described it last week, we think it marks “the end of the American experiment with constitutional democracy.” Some might accuse us of having hyperbolized a bit, but our response would be that if you think this, you should wake up and smell the garbage.

As we said last week, the means used by the Obama crowd to get this bill passed reeked of corruption, misbehavior, and disregard of both legal precedent and the will of the people. And we have become even more convinced of this claim this week as details of what went on behind the scenes to get this bill passed have begun to emerge in private conversation. This stuff takes the form of hearsay, so we won't pass it on in detail. But our source is more honest than any of the folks involved in the transaction itself, so we will just say

In this Issue

Some Thoughts on Obamacare.

Announcement.

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The Political Forum LLC 8563 Senedo Road, Mt. Jackson, Virginia 22842
Phone 540.477.9762 Fax 540.477.3359 melcher@thepoliticalforum.com www.thepoliticalforum.com

that no one with an ounce of sense should believe the public explanation for Bart Stupak's sudden embrace of federally financed abortions.

It is important to understand that we are not maintaining here that parliamentary skullduggery, bribery, and blackmail are new to the American political scene. In fact, the Clinton White House raised these practices to an art form. Our concern is that last week this kind of behavior took on the cloak of regularity; it sent a strong signal to the American people that from that point on their hopes and desires will be subject to review by a higher power; a power of the kind grimly described by Tocqueville thusly: "an immense and tutelary power, which takes upon itself alone to secure [the people's] gratifications and to watch over their fate . . . [which] chooses to be the sole agent and the only arbiter of their necessities, facilitates their pleasures, manages their principal concerns, directs their industry, regulates the descent of property, and subdivides their inheritances; what remains, but to spare them all the care of thinking and all the trouble of living?"

This is the stuff of which banana republics are made. Moreover, it isn't going to go away when the Chicago thugs leave the White House. Burke made this point beautifully in his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. To wit:

Criminal means once tolerated are soon preferred. They present a shorter cut to the object than through the highway of the moral virtues. Justifying perfidy and murder for public benefit, public benefit would soon become the pretext, and perfidy and murder the end; until rapacity, malice, revenge, and fear more dreadful than revenge, could satiate their insatiable appetites. Such must be the consequences of losing in the splendor of these triumphs of the rights of men, all natural sense of wrong and right.

Yes, of course, some Americans became angry about the way Obamacare was thrust upon the nation and protested loudly against the thuggery involved. But

they were quickly advised by "wiser heads" that if they don't temper their anger, they will "look bad" and "hurt their cause." This is pure crap, of course, but years and years of being beat over the head with the terrible swift sword of political correctness has had a mollifying impact on conservative actions and rhetoric. So, for now at least, when these angry people march, they will do so not with pitchforks and torches but with cute little signs and smiles on their faces so the Judases in the mainstream media won't criticize them.

And soon, when they learn that many billions of the trillions of dollars that this crowd of crooks has borrowed and spent in their name has disappeared without trace into the maw of the labor unions and sundry other left-wing organizations like ACORN, they will again be told that they must hold their anger in check. And God bless them all, they will probably do it. For the fact is that if there is one unifying characteristic among the great percentage of these wonderful people, it is respect for the law and a strong sense of decorum.

But don't get us wrong. We are not saying that there won't be violence. In fact, we believe that all the liberals who became so hysterical last week about the possibility that public anger over the passage of the health care bill will manifest itself in violence will be proven correct. We don't think the violence will occur right away mind you. But we do think there could be real trouble eventually when Obamacare, like a yellow fog (to borrow a metaphor from T.S. Eliot) rubs its back upon the window panes of America's hospitals and doctors' offices and the bedrooms of the sick and the halt.

The thing is, unlike those poor, cowering liberals, who were asking for police protection last week, we don't believe the violence, when it comes, will emanate from the "tea partiers." We think it will come from the same place it always does, from the left, that artesian well of righteous indignation and sense of entitlement. And not just from the fringe groups on the left, the wackos, the red guards who trade in anger and violence, but from the big enchiladas, that is, from the ranks of the federal, state, and local employees, school

teachers, and members of the big labor unions. These are going to be the real angry and violent ones when Obamacare breaks not just the federal government's deficit-ridden back, but the backs of the state and city governments as well. These are the people who have benefited most from the gargantuan and unsustainable growth in government spending, and they are the ones who will be hurt most when it dries up.

You see, the one thing about which the Obama crowd was correct is that the nation's health care system is a mess. It's fraught with corruption, waste, and inefficiency. And it is going to get worse as costs skyrocket, as the population ages, as Medicare goes broke and as the government gets more and more deeply involved. And as this happens, people are going to blame Obama. Ironically, it will only be his fault in the sense that he could have fixed it but only made it worse. But they're going to blame him nevertheless. You see, he owns health care now, whether he likes it or not.

And this brings up an interesting question. Why was Barack Obama so adamant about playing in this sandbox? What did he think he was going to get out of it that was worth the lying, the cheating, and the dirty tactics?

He couldn't possibly have believed that it would reduce the deficit. Come on! His people knowingly fudged the numbers because they couldn't make an honest case for that contention.

He couldn't possibly have thought it would increase either his or his party's popularity with voters. Come on! The polls showed clearly that most Americans were reasonably happy with the status quo.

He had to know that this trashy mess that he signed wouldn't even begin to correct the problems that had developed within the health care sector of the economy over the past half century or more. Come on! If he had really wanted to fix it, he would have at least opened the liability issue for discussion.

And he clearly didn't do it out of compassion for the uninsured. He didn't even play this card with any enthusiasm, even though it is the classic ace in the liberal deck. Oh yes, he trotted out a few cases of hardship among the uninsured. But, come on, it was clear to anyone paying attention that he was not motivated by his love and sympathy for the uninsured.

So what is this all about, you ask? Well, we don't know. But our guess and our fear is that, unlike any other president before him, Barack Obama's agenda is driven more by his ideological beliefs than by conventional considerations. Indeed, as he himself recently said, he would sacrifice reelection on the altar of his personal views as to what is good for the American people, whether they share these views or not.

As such, we think the health care bill was simply about redistribution of wealth, not because of its political, economic, or even humane effects, but because it is in some way integral to the strange calculus of right and wrong that lies at the heart of Barack's political and spiritual mission.

We hope we are wrong about this.

We hope that he is driven by the desire to improve the lives of all Americans using the conventional economic tools as set forth by the great economists who have built upon the wisdom of Adam Smith.

We hope that he is driven by the Judeo-Christian belief that every human being is of infinite value as an object and end of God's love and is therefore not to be regarded as little more than a small and disposable part of the *polis*.

We hope that he is driven by Pope Leo XIII's contention in his great encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, published in 1891, which states unequivocally that "the main tenet of socialism, community of goods, must be utterly rejected, since it only injures those whom it would seem meant to benefit, is directly contrary to the natural rights of mankind, and would introduce

confusion and disorder into the commonweal. The first and most fundamental principle, therefore, if one would undertake to alleviate the condition of the masses, must be the inviolability of private property.”

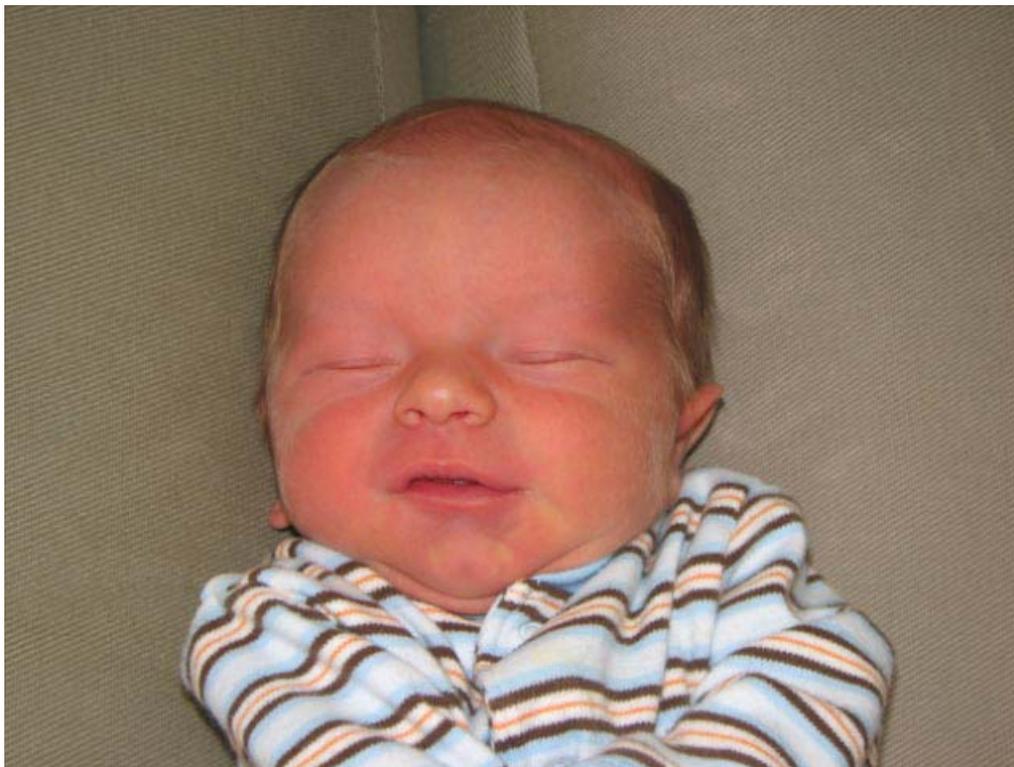
We hope this. But we think in this case it would be smart to do as President Reagan once advised, namely “trust but verify.”

ANNOUNCEMENT:

As you may have noticed, this week’s newsletter is rather short. There’s a good reason for this, namely the early arrival at the offices of The Political Forum of the newest member of our company’s family.

The young man pictured below is named Joseph Tucker Soukup, and he was born on March 23 to Steve and Melissa.

Much appreciation (in advance) to all of you for your indulgence on this matter.



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