

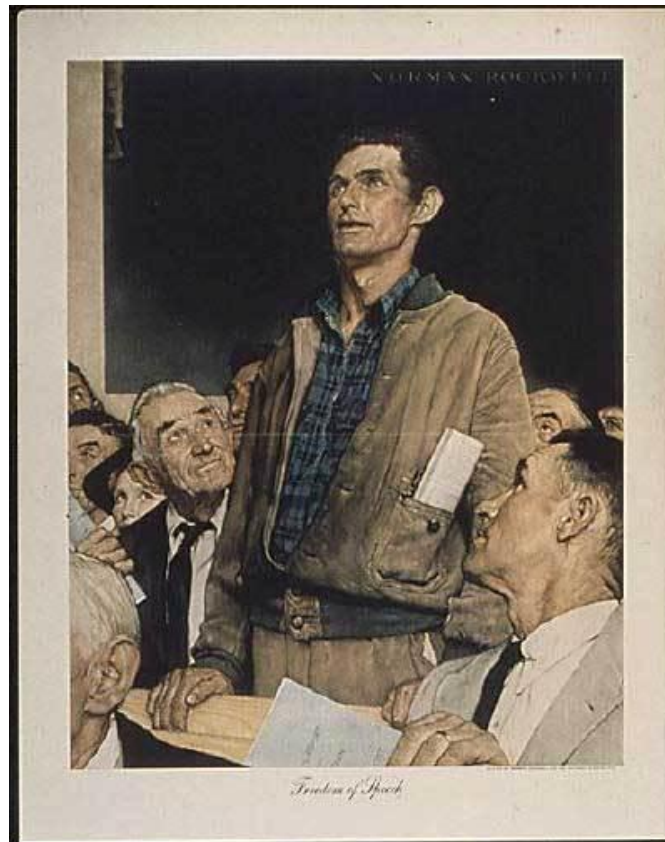
THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE HAS BECOME AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE!

Stephen L. Bakke – August 19, 2009

This is one of several topics which lead into my attempt at identifying reasonable and viable elements of health care reform – “soon to be completed”. My suggestions will recognize the compelling need for reform, accept those aspects which virtually all citizens agree must change, and provide an alternative to the undesirable, and ever less popular, government imposed system.

An interlude

As I reflect on my enthusiastic participation in this debate about a possible transformation of our government’s relationship to its citizens, it leads me to insert a visual image I saw in today’s Minneapolis Star. This is Norman Rockwell’s immortalization of the concept of “town hall meetings” in his famous 1949 painting “Freedom of Speech”. For those who didn’t see it, or haven’t seen this famous painting recently, here it is:



The right to be heard and taken seriously is precious, and it’s one of our most basic FREEDOMS. The process is interesting, energizing, and downright inspiring!

And, I recently came across a comment by John Stossel combined with a quote from Adam Smith. Smith is the famous 1700s Scottish moral philosopher and is generally cited as the father of modern economics. This is taken from one of Smith's writings in which he is showing contempt for the concept of a central economic planner. It fits very well into the current debate about having a central health care planner/evaluator. The direct quote from Smith is in *bold italics*:

The politician who tries to design the medical marketplace would *“assume an authority which could safely be trusted, not only to no single person, but to no council or senate whatever, and which would nowhere be so dangerous as in the hand of a man who had folly and presumption enough to fancy himself fit to exercise it.”*

So let the debate continue!

Sources of Information

The major sources of information used in developing my health care commentaries will be included in my future report on health care reform recommendations. A preliminary, but not complete, list of sources can be found in my April 2009 report on the status of our health care system and reform.