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 **ABOUT OBAMACARE,  
SLICK WILLY:  
WILL YOU PuuuuLEASE  
HUSH UP!**



Stephen L. Bakke  September 5, 2013

While reading the newspaper this morning and I came across the report about President Clinton going on the stump for ObamaCare. Remember that Obama himself has labeled the Ex-Prez as his “secretary of explaining stuff.” Clinton spoke about ObamaCare being “the best chance we have” to achieve the desired goals. He’s just deada \_\_ wrong about that (click [HERE](#) to see what I mean)!

He implied that the bill has already had a positive effect on costs. We all know nothing is available to support the contention that we have seen cost reductions – much to the contrary! If you haven’t seen or heard facts which contradict that, you haven’t been paying close enough attention.

He stated that there hasn’t been an increase in employers using part-time workers to avoid providing health care coverage. **Good Grief!** Even AFL-CIO boss Richard Trumka has made comments conflicting with Clinton’s babble. For example (this one I personally witnessed):

*The Affordable Care Act does need some modifications to it, because as it does right now, what's happening is, you have employers that the law says if you pay your, if your employees work 30 hours or more a week, you've got to give them healthcare. So they're restructuring their workforce to give workers 29 and a half hours so they don't have to provide them healthcare.*

President Clinton made reference to information that came from past studies by the World Health Organization (WHO) and The Commonwealth Fund (TCF). As an example, he referenced some old findings by stating:

*The studies show that we are No. 1 by a country mile in the percentage of our income that we devote to health care costs and rank no better than 25<sup>th</sup> to 33<sup>rd</sup> in the health care outcomes we get.*

**Where do I start?!** While we do spend huge amounts on health care – too much even – we do still rank at the top for true quality. Those are old studies that have been debunked in their methodology as well as their conclusions. And what makes Clinton’s statements even worse is that even those studies contradict what he was stating – he was “spinning” big-time!

For example, the WHO study was biased in favor of any country that had a single payer universal coverage system. Analysis of WHO’s process quickly pointed out that if a country (e.g. the U.S.) had very high statistical average outcomes, but without the one characteristic of universal coverage (as defined), that country could NOT rank in the upper end of the survey. Stated another way, a country with high-quality care overall, but with some minor “unequal distribution” would rank BELOW a

country with a much lower average for quality of care, but with equal distribution of available services. Such was the fate of the U.S.

Referring to the study of our health care system, Clinton specifically attributes our poor ranking to poor **medical outcomes**. But those overall rankings don't focus on outcomes! In fact, for all of its problems, the WHO study does give the U.S. credit for quality of care and innovation by ranking us near the top for just "quality." **However, that's NOT how Clinton presented the information!**

Furthermore, while we don't have the single payer/universal system, our government does offer certain basic medical care to all uninsured – e.g. Medicaid – but such is given no credit in the studies. Furthermore, the TCF study ranked the U.S. next to last on all but one of the criterion – even those pretending to measure some element of quality This low ranking can be directly attributed to the fact that we have no universal health care system – per se. We were the only country without such a system and the results were pathetically skewed.

**And would you believe that actual outcomes were not measured by TCF, yet "quality" assessments were made.** I had to dig to find out that the evaluation was done largely by interviewing patients and gathering "impressions". No adjustments were made by TCF for comparisons across national boundaries of for different cultural expectations. Think about it ..... this report does nothing more than reveal which nation does the worst job of satisfying selective preferences by patients. And expectations do tend to be higher in the U.S.

I actually found where TCF admits to their fatal flaw. **THEY DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT MEDICAL RECORDS IN THEIR STUDY!** As I recall, this I found near the end of the report and it accomplished a type of "disclaimer" in the interest of full disclosure (**PLEASE READ!**):

*Any attempt to assess the relative performance of countries has inherent limitations. These rankings summarize evidence on measures of high performance based on national mortality data and the perceptions and experiences of patients and physicians. They do not capture important dimensions of effectiveness or efficiency that might be obtained from medical records or administrative data. Patients' and physicians' assessments might be affected by their experiences and expectations, which could differ by country and culture.*

(I did obtain the WHO and TCF reports and read major portions. Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for more!)

**HELP ME STEFANO! I THINK I'M FALLLLLLLInG .....**



*I see your dilemma SB. All I can offer is the oft quoted proverb: "He that knoweth not, let him speaketh likewise!" - Stefano Bachovich - obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit - a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything - my primary "go to guy."*

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