

TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

SENATOR FRANKEN: IS A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM THE ONLY SOLUTION YOU CAN SUPPORT?



By Stephen L. Bakke  June 8, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

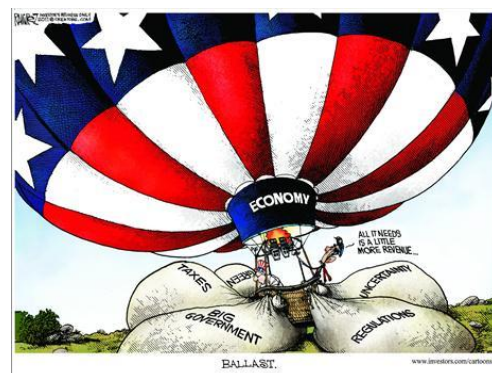
Hey SB! Our intrepidly liberal Senator Franken wrote an opinion piece the other day in which he tried to squash "like a bug," opposing, more conservative ideas. While most conservatives believe in an important role for government, Franken and his allies seem to leave no room for any truly market based solutions (i.e. conservative ideas) to economic problems. Don't you have any reaction to that? Like ol' Ronnie Reagan once said: "Public servants say, always with the best of intentions, 'What greater service we could render if only we had a little more money and a little more power.' But the truth is that outside of its legitimate function government does nothing as well or as economically as the private sector." - Stefano Bachovich - obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit - a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything - SB's primary "go to guy."

Here's my response:

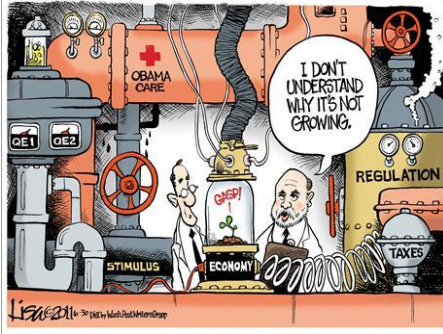
Senator Franken: Is a Government Program the Only Solution You Can Support?

Senator Al Franken's June 1st article, "Republican plan means nothing good for you," offers insight when analyzing differences in conservative and liberal thinking. His central message is that republican congressional actions have absolutely no redeeming features.

Franken describes republican ideas using terms like: long-term toll, shrink opportunities, cuts, stagnate, burden, inequality, force, stripping, risky, vulnerable, saddled, threaten, fend for yourself, endanger, wrongheaded, slashes..... It's class warfare and demagoguery at its finest. His message also makes clear that if it's a government initiative, it must be good. Anything not cloaked in a regulated government program, he would summarily dismiss.



Conservatives have a vision for an important role of government, but the Senator leaves no room for conservatives' faith in the private economy. Yet, I actually agree with him when he states: "The problem with expanding inequality is not that those at top are making spectacular gains; it's that almost everyone else is seeing their income stagnate."



Precisely! But that's where we part company. He would say that economic "stagnation" for some is because of too little government investment - but it's actually time to leave basic programs in place while returning tax dollars to the private economy where all economic classes can benefit from true growth!

If inequality is the problem and growth the solution, Franken would believe growth will follow from redistributive policies to reduce inequality. But the better, conservative answer is: inequality is lessened by true, market driven economic growth.

Senator, throw the millstones from around the economy's neck!