

HEALTH CARE – A DIGEST OF COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS

Stephen L. Bakke – March 17, 2010

As I work to complete my comments on the constitutional issues of the health care legislation, I have come across some comments and quotes, old and new, directly regarding this issue – or at least curiously relevant. There is nothing here that is original, nor anything that involved research, since all of these appeared in many locations including the websites and newsletters I read daily. I think they are interesting. Maybe you can use them in some way. At least you can use this to pass the time in the “reading room.”

If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the General Welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one to particular exceptions. – **James Madison in a letter to Edmund Pendleton, 1792**

*It would reduce the whole instrument to a single phrase, that of instituting a Congress with power to do whatever would be for the good of the United States; and as they would be the sole judges of good or evil, it would be also a power to do whatever evil they please. Certainly no such universal power was meant to be given them. **It [the Constitution] was intended to lace them up straightly within the enumerated powers and those without which, as means, these powers could not be carried into effect.*** – **Thomas Jefferson, 1791 – What a clear statement on the question of “enumerated powers.”**

That’s not ramming something through with a majority. It is doing what democracy calls for. – **House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer referring to the attempts at “reconciliation” – but we are a republic not a pure democracy – the Founders set it up that way on purpose – transforming legislation is supposed to be messy and difficult, and should not be achieved by a thin majority!**

It speaks to the sturdiness of the system our founders installed that it is, as intended so resistant to passing major legal and cultural changes against the overwhelming will of the public. So resistant that, in frustration, the Democratic speaker of the House has been driven to consider breaking her oath of office and violate the Constitution in order to get her way. – **Historian and columnist Tony Blankley**

The debate over health care reform has been messy and often chaotic, but here we are a year later and Barack Obama and his radical agenda might yet win. If it does, he will have put in place the structure for taking over everything else. – **Washington Times editor emeritus Wesley Pruden**

Last year, the House was passing bills without reading them. This year, they’re passing bills without voting on them. – **Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich**

*[The House] may insert what's known as a "self-executing" rule ... Democrats would thus send the Senate bill to President Obama for his signature even as they claimed to oppose the same Senate bill. They would be declaring themselves to be for and against the Senate bill in the same vote ... This two-votes-in-one gambit is a brazen affront to the plain language of the Constitution ... Article 1, Section 7 of the Constitution says that in order for a "Bill" to "become law", it "shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate" ... If Congress can now decide that the House can vote for one bill and the Senate can vote for another, and the final result can be some arbitrary hybrid [without a conference committee], then we have abandoned one of [James] Madison's core checks and balances. – **The Wall Street Journal***

*Well, a lot of those folks, your employer, it's estimated would see premiums **fall by as much as 3,000 percent**, which means they could give you a raise. – **Barack Obama** – **Whoops! There's a guy who knows his math – Sometimes he makes me cringe.***

*Think of an economy where people could be an artist or a photographer or a writer without worrying about keeping their day job in order to have health insurance. – **Nancy Pelosi** – **So the rest of us can pay for these unemployed artists and photographers to have insurance? – (The preceding was found in the Patriot Post) – How can anyone dispute that these comments represent a totally bizarre world view and that there is a radically progressive, collectivist, and socialist philosophy in the Democrat leadership? GOOD GRIEF!***

*In his book "Dreams From My Father" Obama gives the distinct impression that his gifts are too great for the smallness of our political stage. He regrets not having been born during the civil rights era when the grandness of the cause would have measured up to the grandness of his ambition ... Hence, the defeat of ObamaCare would not just be par for the course in the rough-and-tumble world of politics for him. It would be a sign of his ordinariness, his mortality, and that, to him, is unendurable. – **Forbes columnist Shikha Dalmia** – **I wish I had this one available for my article on Obama's "messiah complex."***

And finally ...

*A fanatic is a person who can't change his mind and won't change the subject – **Former England Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill***

That's enough fun – I need to get back to serious work!