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The Franciscan Conservative

"It does not take a majority to prevail...but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men."-Samuel Adams

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Can Your Hear Us Now? Good!

By Clare Hinshaw

This past Saturday, September 12, President Obama discussed his health care plan with 15,000 supporters in Minneapolis. Meanwhile, back in D.C., two million Americans arrived on Obama's doorstep to protest his administration's out of control spending. For more than three hours protesters streamed from the White House to

Capitol Hill carrying signs with slogans such as "Don't tax me bro" and "You Lie."

According to liberals the tea party movement was losing steam back in July. Which explains why "the biggest protest since the president took office in January" was a tea party held in Obama's backyard.

Since Saturday debates have been raging over the actual number of protesters in Washington.

While most estimates ranged from 1.2 to 2 million CNN claimed only 30,000. As one protester stated, "there were 30,000 at IHOP." Hotair.com correctly posted that "however big it was it was bigger than expected." Certainly it was big enough to shock, not only the media, but the White House as well.

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ACORN: Community Organized Brothels

By Grant Schertzing

The major premise for tactics is the development of operations that will maintain a constant pressure that results in the reactions from the opposition that are essential for the success of the campaign.

- Saul Alinsky

During CPAC 2009, I attended a session on how to break through the liberal stranglehold over news media. Outspoken conservative actor Robert Davi challenged us,

saying that it wasn't enough to just comment on that news. To do so would just leave us at the mercy of the liberal establishment and its selective agenda. To really break through that stranglehold would require that we go out, and find the stories ourselves.

Well, 'gotcha' journalists James O'Keefe and Hannah Giles not only found a story that would send the liberal establishment reeling, they released that story according to the manipulative rules of

community organizing set down by radical Saul Alinsky. Funny thing is that their story exposes the corruption of the biggest community organizers of them all: ACORN.

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The Health Care As A “Right” Dilemma

By Dan Woltornist

The entire healthcare debate has a countless number of facets. Nearly every political organization has found one specific issue in the numerous bills floating around Congress and either rallied behind the bills or vowed to kill them. National Right to Life is lobbying extremely hard to remove any abortion provisions from the bill while NARAL is campaigning to add them. Senior citizens are fighting for better Medicare coverage while some congressmen seek to remove it. Democrats seek to have a public option while Republicans

seek to simply remove government involvement from the healthcare sector.

Nearly all of these arguments are overlooking the most essential element of the debate- whether or not healthcare is a human right. Democrats will valiantly defend the assertion of healthcare as a right based on two documents- the United States Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Democrats cite the rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness as their main argument for universal healthcare. The rights enumerated in the Declaration are strictly protective. They are rights that all people

have to protect themselves from excessive government. Imagine if all of those rights were held to be a responsibility of the government to promote. Everyone would have million dollar houses, and be encouraged by the government to do whatever it took to pursue happiness.

Beyond having a misunderstanding of these rights, Democrats are having a deep understanding of the legal weight of the Declaration of Independence....

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Letter to the Editor: Utopian Socialism

By Daniel Davis

As Americans we live in a Capitalistic society based on the fundamental values of hard work = just reward. I have for myself looked into the issue of modern Socialism and Communism, and during this last Presidential Election I have become convinced that Capitalism was, is, and will remain the American way. Throughout America's history we have been guided through the principles of economic Capitalism. For President Obama to all of a sudden advocate for radical Socialist policies may very well threaten the now delicate political divide between Americans. President Obama's dedication to failed Utopian Socialistic policies is

exemplified through his support of taxing the wealthy and the "redistributing the wealth." I'm sorry Mr. President but everyone in my family has worked hard for what they have, and the last thing that any American needs is the government stepping in and taking control over our resources. The fact remains that the government is supposed to be the steward and servant of the people, if we let government take over control of our personal resources then we are doomed to the excesses and failures of the USSR, China, North Korea, and Cuba. Socialism in the modern world cannot rightly function. The "Communist" country of China for example has been forced to abandon effective everyday Communism for effective and real capitalism. China's government

may be Communist on the outside but deep down in the mix of things China has wholly conformed to venture Capitalism to ensure global competition. Socialism, Communism, whatever you want to call it, just won't work because of the greed which is a direct result of human nature. That does not however dictate that all greed is necessarily bad. Capitalism quite often rightfully uses the motivator of "greed" to advance the betterment of society. Almost all modern science and understanding, including our quality of life, are a direct result of successful American capitalism. However, it is true, that Capitalism all too often forgets the worker, yes, but capitalism still is the most effective means for society as a whole.

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Can You Hear Us Now? Good! (cont'd)

Speakers at the rally included Rep. Mike Pence of Indiana, Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina, and Andrew Moylan of the National Taxpayers Union who received shouts of approval when he stated that "Hell hath no fury like a taxpayer ignored." Other speakers included representatives from organizations such as FreedomWorks, Hispanic Leadership Fund, and Tea Party Patriots.

Similar tea parties took place simultaneously around the

country. Most prominent was a rally held in Quincy, Illinois at which congressional candidate, and father of Franciscan graduate Terrence Schilling, Bobby Schilling spoke, along with Illinois Representatives Aaron Schock and Jil Tracy, Big Hollywood publisher Andrew Breitbart, and others.

Perhaps now, after their ignoring tax day tea parties, fourth of July tea parties, town hall protests, and other such demonstrations that have taken

place since President Obama's inauguration, the government will wake up and realize that *the American people* – not special interests, not "astroturf" groups, but real, everyday Americans – oppose the administration's spending. And if, as they claim, they are really in Washington to serve the people they will respond to the will of the people. But don't hold your breath.

ACORN: Community Organized Brothels (cont'd)

Last Thursday (Sept 10), O'Keefe released a shocking video on YouTube where he and Giles visited an ACORN office in Baltimore, posing as a pimp and his prostitute, asking for help with getting a loan for a house. So how do the ladies in the office respond? They explain how to commit tax fraud to make the prostitution a legitimate service for taxing purposes, the receipts of which would help them get a loan for their home.

But wait, the story doesn't end there. O'Keefe and Giles make it clear that they not only plan on using this house as a base for her prostitution, but will be housing some dozen underage girls from El Salvador for the same base purposes. Again, the ladies are only too happy to help explain how to work them into the tax fraud, essentially creating an underage brothel in the city of Baltimore. Of course, Fox News was the only major news outlet to carry the story, and ACORN was quick to call the video an

isolated incident. However, the next day (Sept 11), O'Keefe released a second video, showing the same act drawing the same response from an ACORN office in Washington, D.C. Well, this started to draw much more attention to the story, so much so that the U.S. Census Bureau severed all ties with ACORN.

But wait, there's more. After a weekend of letting the stories fester and ACORN threatening to bring suit against O'Keefe and Giles, O'Keefe released a third video this Monday (Sept 14), showing the same act drawing the same response from an ACORN office in New York. Coincidentally, ACORN had been alleging that O'Keefe had probably tried the same thing and failed in other cities, including New York.

As a result of O'Keefe and Giles' investigative journalism, the Senate voted to block the Housing and Urban Development Department from giving housing funding to ACORN, with House representatives calling for a congressional investigation of the organization.

These videos have demonstrated that despite the leftist monopoly on news coverage, the right still has a beachhead in the blogosphere and other internet media. More importantly, O'Keefe has shown that it's possible to use those outlets to make news and not just respond to it.

BigGovernment.com, a newly started conservative blog, is covering the entire story, with the videos, transcripts and more posted on its site.

But what really gets me excited about this piece, is that O'Keefe and Giles stuck it to the man himself, using community organizer tricks to take down a community organizing organization by showing what community organizing is all about. It's not about helping the poor or even treating them with dignity. How can it be when they encourage them to treat themselves like property?

James and Hannah, I applaud your efforts. I can only hope that other conservatives follow in your footsteps, and expose the liberal hypocrisy around us.

The Health Care As A “Right” Dilemma (cont’d)

In *Cotting v. Godard*, 183 U.S. 79 (1901), the Supreme Court stated: "While such declaration of principles may not have the force of organic law, or be made the basis of judicial decision as to the limits of right and duty, and while in all cases reference must be had to the organic law of the nation for such limits, yet the latter is but the body and the letter of which the former is the thought and the spirit, and it is always safe to read the letter of the Constitution in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence." In other Supreme Court cases, the Declaration of Independence has been cited as an additional

argument of principle, but not as having any legal weight.

Democrats ignore their illiteracy in domestic law, so they turn to international law to fill in the gaps. They champion the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The Declaration of Human Rights clearly states "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care." Strictly according to the declaration, all people are indeed entitled to medical care. The one catch is that the proclamation is not binding to any countries in the

world under international law. The United Nations issued the UDHR as a pure declaration, not as a treaty.

Under no provision in international or domestic law is healthcare a right that must be provided for by the United States Government. Instead of making their role something it isn't, all congressmen should uphold their oaths of defending and protecting the constitution. Healthcare is not a right and the government has no place in interfering with it.

Come to the College Republicans'

Socialized Bake Sale and Candy Stand!

Come enjoy the wonders of a socialized economy.

Warning: Rationing ahead
Saturday, October 3rd
12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
At the St. Francis Festival



Letter to the Editor: Utopian Socialism (cont’d)

The wealth gap in America is one of the smallest in the modern world, for example in comparison to China, Russia, and North Korea. Capitalism has fueled our American way-of-life, has created our medicines, and has secured our freedoms. That is why we cannot as a nation revert to Socialist principles. They just wont work, and in the process

it will greatly hurt our nation, something at this juncture we cannot afford. I'm not saying that one should blindly follow Capitalism all gun-howe, you should challenge it, and ensure the rights of all peoples in that process. However, The plain and simple fact is that America needs Capitalism to remain America, otherwise we will cripple like the UK did after WWII. We are a

Capitalistic society, like it or not I really don't care, and if you don't like it rather than attempting to ruin America please just move to Cuba, Spain, and or Canada, then you'll see the real effects of modern socialism.

Clean Your Clunker



FREE Car Wash!!!

Congressional liberals and tree huggers across America want your loyal and reliable clunker off the road.

We know that college students rely on their clunkers to haul 8 tons worth of belongings to and from your home. And you want it looking fly the entire way.

Come show them that you believe in wealth protection, not wealth destruction.

Saturday, September 26th
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Center Parking Lot

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The True Costs of Cap and Trade Legislation

By Steven Valentine

"Never let a serious crisis go to waste." Those were the words of President Obama's chief of staff Rahm Emmanuel in November of 2008. Obama certainly has not held back on his mass government expansions. Stimulus, Government Motors, health care, czars...the list goes on and on. He hasn't even started on immigration or the Freedom of Choice Act.

Thanks to grassroots outrage and opposition to ObamaCare, the other tenants of Obama's expansionist plans have been put on hold. For now. One piece of legislation that will likely be revived when the health care fight is over is the job-killing American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, better known as Cap and Trade. Obama has called this bill "bold and necessary." The bill aims to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, with the main focus on carbon dioxide from the combustion of coal, oil, and natural gas. Harvard economist Martin Feldstein explains:

"Under the cap-and-trade system, the federal government would limit the total volume of CO2 that U.S. companies can emit each year and would issue permits that companies would be required to have for each ton of CO2 emitted. Once issued, these permits would be tradable and could be bought and sold, establishing a market price reflecting the targeted CO2 reduction, with a tougher CO2 standard and fewer available permits leading to higher prices."^[1]

The consequences of this legislation are disastrous. Let's start with a few estimates from Obama's own Treasury Department. An analysis by the Treasury predicts new taxes to the tune of \$100 billion to \$200 billion dollars a year, "the equivalent of hiking personal income taxes by about 15 percent", according to CBS.^[2] That's a cost of \$1,761 per American household each year.

Manufacturers will only bear 13% of the costs, as they will pass the majority of costs onto the consumer. Higher prices will force American families to bear 87% of compliance costs, according to the CBO. That results in diminished purchasing power for the middle and upper classes. The upper four of five income levels would see a decreased purchasing power.^[3]

The analysis also predicts that the economic impact would equal 1% of the United States' gross domestic product (GDP). The single piece of legislation would equal the costs of all existing environmental regulation, according to the Treasury. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that costs could go as high as 3.5% of the GDP by 2050.^[4] The Heritage Foundation estimates that the bill will "reduce aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) by \$7.4 trillion" by 2035.^[5] In addition, Heritage estimates an increase in electricity costs by 90%, gasoline prices by 74%, natural gas prices by 55%, and federal debt by 29%, with all rates adjusted for inflation.

The CBO also forecasts lower wages for American workers: "The increases in the price of energy caused by the program would reduce workers' real wages. Total employment would be lower in the long run to the extent that some workers chose to work fewer hours or not at all—but for nearly all workers, the choice in the long run would probably be to remain in the workforce and accept the prevailing wage."^[6]

What does all of this add up to? Skyrocketing energy costs, increased job losses in the millions, lower wages, and decreased purchasing power. What will the environmental affects be? As Feldstein put it, "its impact on global warming would be

virtually unnoticeable."^[7] As Feldstein explains, the United States' share of global CO2 production is less than 25%, and as other countries grow, that number is expected to decline. The aim of cap and trade is to reduce American CO2 emissions by 15%. That would be equivalent to a less than 4% drop globally. European nations have tried cap and trade and have seen emissions go up even faster than in the U.S.^[7]

Cap and trade is a massive tax increase based in the flawed ideology that fears the unproven theory of man-made global warming. It is a radical stop in the wrong direction, and it must be stopped. The bill has passed in the House, even with 44 Democrats voting no. Lucky for us, the bill is on hold in the Senate. That will not stop the left from pushing this bill hard. We must stop this bill dead in its tracks, or risk irreversible damage to our economy and our wallets.

¹<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/31/AR2009053102077.html>

²http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2009/09/15/taking_liberties/entry5314040.shtml

³<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/105xx/doc10573/09-17-Greenhouse-Gas.pdf>

⁴<http://www.reuters.com/article/GC/A-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE58H0H020090918>

⁵<http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/wm2438.cfm>

⁶<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/105xx/doc10573/09-17-Greenhouse-Gas.pdf>

⁷<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/31/AR2009053102077.html>

⁸<http://www.freedomworks.org/publications/top-10-reasons-to-oppose-cap-and-trade>