

Judicial tyranny

"Nothing in the Constitution has given them [the federal judges] a right to decide for the Executive, more than to the Executive to decide for them... The opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional and what not, not only for themselves, in their own sphere of action, but for the Legislature and Executive also in their spheres, would make the Judiciary a despotic branch."

~ Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Abigail Adams, Sept. 11, 1804

'Higher' education?

Radical students at Middlebury College, Vermont unleashed their full totalitarian fury at Charles Murray when he endeavored to deliver his scheduled social commentary.

The mob of "students" shouted him down and stopped any planned educational process. They then proceeded to stomp and pummel his car as he escaped their mayhem.

A female professor who made an attempt to usher Murray away from the chaos was assaulted by the thugs, temporarily putting her in the hospital.

Words that offend (anyone who may hear them) are no longer acceptable for public speech. "Free speech for me, but not for thee."

Welcome to Orwell's 1984.

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HOOSIER PATRIOTS

Jim Bratten

Subscribe through e-mail at:
hpnw.jimb@gmail.com



The status quo 'root and branch' shell game continues

RYNOcare

Last week, the Republican establishment in the House spent roughly one-half million dollars attacking conservatives in the House Freedom Caucus who actually want to completely erase Obamacare from the American health insurance landscape.

These conservatives want to keep the promise they made to their constituents on the campaign trail – repeal Obamacare (as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell once promised while running for reelection in 2014: "root and branch").

But establishment Republican leadership in both the House and the Senate like the *roots* of Obamacare – the government controls health insurance and continues to regulate it. Under Paul Ryan's "American Health Care Act" (AHCA), affectionately known by some as RYNOcare, they just trim the *branches*. (Of course, this keeps the Obamacare tree alive, not killing it dead as Trump voters demanded.)

There's nothing *conservative* or *free-market* in RYNOcare, which creates another entitlement program and leaves much of Obamacare controls in place. Voters told Republicans by their overwhelming backing of Donald Trump in the election of 2016 that they wanted Obamacare *gone*, not placed on modified life support. The damage already done since it was signed into law on March 23, 2010 has been substantial and is steadily worsening. The longer it is in effect, the greater the damage.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in 2008 the average cost of family health care insurance (employer-sponsored coverage for a family of four making \$60,000 per year) was \$12,680 annually. Under Obamacare in 2016 that same yearly coverage was \$18,142. Obamacare premium increases for 2017, for a "benchmark" premium, will rise on average by 25%. Deductibles for the same family of four mentioned above will increase a minimum of 22.9%.

Options for insurer choice on the ACA (Obamacare) website, healthcare.gov, are 28% fewer in 2017. The *Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation* has found that the increase in taxes within Obamacare for FY (Fiscal Year) 2013 through FY2022 will increase \$377 billion. The *Center for Health and Economy* discovered that, in 2017 alone, Obamacare costs to taxpayers, due to higher subsidies, will increase by at least \$9.8 billion.

An inefficient Obamacare website for participant enrollment has wasted millions of dollars. More millions have been paid to union-sourced "navigators" to assist the new enrollees in the cumbersome, confusing process to find and sign up for nonsensical plans (men must carry breast exam coverage and women must have coverage for prostate exams). Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost, and subsidies, premiums and deductibles have skyrocketed. Yet Paul Ryan dances around the obvious and refuses to send the 2015 repeal bill to President Trump for his signature. And, because the Republican "never-Trumpers" and Ryan moderates bet on a Hillary Clinton win, no health insurance strategy for a replacement plan was ready for "prime time."

A replacement for Obamacare has to be patient-centered and totally free-market. Get federal hands off health insurance. Americans need transparent pricing of procedures to shop for the best care at the best price. They need to shop for health insurance across state lines, just as they do for home insurance and auto insurance, and coverage cannot be "one size fits all."

Paul Ryan should realize healthcare is patient-centered, concentrate on free-market solutions, and scrap RYNOcare.

We Be People



The White House releases President Trump's first budget

A good start

The Party of the Terminally Stupid

Fourteen Republicans joined the Democrats in Congress to call for Attorney General Jeff Sessions to recuse himself in any investigation of campaign “funny business” between the Donald Trump campaign and the Russians. Seriously; some even called for Sessions to resign.

When asked by an interviewer on CNN about ties between a DNC hacker and a Trump campaign adviser, Senator John McCain replied, “It cries out for investigation.”

Senators John McCain, Lindsey Graham, and other Republicans have crowed for a special investigation or a special prosecutor to examine contacts and relationships between the Trump campaign and the Russians. No leads, no evidence, no hint of collusion supported by any proof; but let’s act like Democrats and investigate for the sake of investigation. “If we look long enough and intimidate enough people with innuendo, we can build a case on *something*...”

Their nonsense is excruciatingly painful.

When President Trump announced his first budget for 2017 last week, the state-run media attacked:

“If you’re a poor person in America, Trump’s budget is not for you,” said *The Washington Post*.

“Trump’s dystopian budget is going nowhere,” sneered the *Boston Globe*.

And *The New York Times*’ headline proclaimed, “In Trump’s Plan, Some Parts of America Are More First Than Others.”

Where was the irate, trumpeted blast of Republican push-back in response to another round of media idiocy and “fake news”?

There wasn’t any; only weak bleats from the sheep grazing on The Hill.

If Republicans persist in a game of total defense, cave under accusations of racism and toss in the towel when media threaten to intimidate, abandon the culture and law to the depraved, they’re done. No offense leads to no victories; no victories, no existence.

Why even engage in a contest of ideas if you are not willing to defend your own and attack your opponents’ lack of them?

President Trump will likely have to take a few Republicans to the wood shed...

The proposed 2017 budget from the White House was released last week and it’s full of promises kept and sacred cows butchered. President Donald Trump knows what needs to be “beefed up” and what needs to be put to pasture – permanently.

Americans who backed his presidential bid, showing up at rally after rally, told him loud and clear: the nation must be defended, its sovereignty secured, its war-torn veterans cared for and a mountainous waste of taxpayer money reduced drastically.

Trump listened and promised, and it looks as if he will *try* to deliver (despite a Republican establishment that holds overspending as sacred and zero-based budgeting as gospel).

Increases to three specific budgets are obviously necessary, since these are the departments where spending was orphaned the most by former President Obama. What these three do doesn’t really enhance voter turnout for Democrats; most of the progressives are not particularly concerned with the core value of these departments. The first Trump budget proposal for 2017 increases:

- Defense Department spending by 10%, or \$54 billion (a conservative *start*)
- Department of Homeland Security by 7%, or \$2.8 billion (deportation, border security and sanctuary city policy)
- Department of Veterans Affairs by 6%, or \$4.4 billion (slashing inefficiency and delivering on medical promises)

These three are also bureaucratic messes with massive waste, which needs to be dealt with. All of them house Obama political holdovers that must be broomed at the earliest opportunity for security’s sake.

Recommended *cuts* announced by the White House on March 13 included:

- Reductions to the EPA budget of 31%, or \$2.6 billion
- Cuts for TSA of 11%, including funding for airport security
- State Department reductions of 28%, or \$10.1 billion, including USAID
- A 14% cut to the budget of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Reductions to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor budgets of 21% each
- Department of Commerce cut by 11%
- \$54 billion cut from discretionary spending “across the board” and...
- A \$5.8 billion reduction for the National Institutes for Health (NIH)

These are the sources of bureaucratic waste that conservatives have been begging to reduce for decades.

Then there are the “sacred cows” that President Trump’s first budget plans to axe, most long overdue and *none* of which are enumerated in the U.S. Constitution as responsibilities of the federal government.

A partial list, hopefully these are resigned to the ash heap of history: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB); the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; the African Development Foundation; the Appalachian Regional Commission; the Chemical Safety Board; the Corporation for National and Community Service; the Delta Regional Authority; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the Inter-American Foundation; the U.S. Trade and Development Agency; the Legal Services Corporation; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation; the Northern Border Regional Commission; the United States Institute of Peace; and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness... Whew!

This decades-old mass of misguided taxpayer-dollar black holes can’t be filled in fast enough.

We have a country to rebuild and defend; energy to extract, a reputation to reestablish, and national confidence to restore.

Power returned to the people and a huge reduction in red tape is a good start.

Enough!
READ THE CONSTITUTION