

March 3, 2010

PRESIDENCY

THE HEALTH CARE CIRCUS – This year virtually every American that works will be forced to pay premiums to a socialist health care plan, and I am not talking about Obama Care. Even if President Obama's health care "reform" package is passed, it will be years before it takes effect. Today, if workers would just look at their paystubs they would see that 1.45% of their pay plus another 1.45% paid by their employer goes to Medicare premiums. Self employed people pay the full 2.9%! If a worker earns \$50,000 this year, \$1,450 goes to Medicare. If an executive makes \$1,000,000 then \$29,500 goes to Medicare.

Republicans say Obama Care is unconstitutional because people will be forced to buy the insurance. Pardon me, but every single American is now required to pay insurance premiums even if they will not receive benefits for 40 years. I have personally paid tens of thousands of dollars in Medicare premiums and since I am not yet 65, I have not received a dime in benefits.

Medicare is a draconian socialist system that has the approval of both Democrats and Republicans. It is Medicare that has destroyed the health care system in the United States by causing unreasonable demand yet reimbursing doctors and hospitals less than the cost of care. Hospitals cannot refuse to accept Medicare patients even though they lose money on virtually every case. This lack of payment is made up by charging individuals and health insurance companies more.

A hospital or doctor cannot negotiate payment with Medicare, but they can with an insurance company, and they can refuse to take the insurance company's members if they can't break even on cost of care. Some hospitals refuse to accept certain insurance companies' coverage and simply tell the patients they will have to pay. That can't be done with Medicare.

Medicare is the driver; it is Medicare that broke the system. Medicare brought millions of new patients to doctors and hospitals and then refused to pay the actual cost of their care.

The solution of Democrats is to keep Medicare the way it is and extend the same unworkable system to everyone, thus raising expenses and taxes. The Republican solution also eventually costs the nation more. Neither party's solutions work because Medicare continues to distort the health care system in the United States. Medicare is being drained by fraud and trial lawyers who force doctors to run unnecessary tests and procedures to protect themselves from lawsuit abuse. Because one of the two biggest donor groups to the Democrats is trial lawyers, there is no chance of any reform to stop lawsuit abuse.

Medicare must be fixed before anything else is done to "reform" health care. Seniors fear a fix because they don't know how the system actually harms them now. About 28% of Medicare recipients cannot find a primary care doctor who accepts new Medicare patients. In some states up to 75% of medical specialists refuse to take Medicare. Many advanced procedures are not allowed by Medicare because of cost and seniors are not even told they are available. Most seniors think they are getting the best care in the world when in actuality they are not. If a senior wants premium health care he must look outside the Medicare system.

OBAMA'S OFFICIAL MUSLIM ENVOY - On February 13, President Obama announced the appointment of Rashad Hussain, deputy associate White House counsel, as U.S. special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). This is an organization that represents a group of nations promoting a specific religious agenda. Appointing an American envoy gives that organization some legitimacy. The OIC has a structure that is highly discriminatory, and it promotes a reactionary, anti-Israel agenda. It also attacks free speech and free exercise of religion in Western nations.

It gets worse. Rashad Hussain publicly defended a terrorism sympathizer in 2004. When he was appointed he lied about defending the terrorism sympathizer and even had references to his comments removed from a magazine. Politico.com however, found an audio tape of his comments. Faced with the truth, he "remembered" his comments. Obama says he has "faith" in Hussain even though he was caught in a bald faced lie and a cover-up. This says a lot about the character of the current occupants of the White House.

RECESS APPOINTMENTS BY OBAMA? - Senator Barack Obama vehemently opposed the recess appointments of President George W. Bush, as did Senator Harry Reid who now controls the Senate. Now both men believe that recess appointments are a vital way to "... keep government functioning." The Obama Administration has a staggering backlog of vacancies in key positions. Most of those vacancies have nothing to do with Senate "holds," but rather the lack of vetting candidates for appointment. REALITY: The Obama Administration has been so busy with a far left agenda of "health care reform," carbon tax," and forced unionization that filling jobs and fixing the economy has had little attention.

THE CONGRESS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTS IRAQI CHRISTIANS - Wednesday the House passed H.Res. 944 by a vote of 415 to 3. Congressman Frank Wolf is the author of H.Res. 944 and has pushed for more than a year for its passage. Wolf has stood nearly alone in Congress to bring some light to the abuse of religious minorities in Iraq. The Resolution supports religious freedom for minorities in Iraq, and its language details how Christians and other religious minorities have been brutalized there since 2003. Detailed information about the Resolution can be found at Congressman Wolf's site: <http://wolf.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=231>

HARRY REID SAYS UNEMPLOYED MEN BEAT THEIR WIVES - "Men when they're out of work tend to become abusive," according to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. The Majority Leader, who is up for reelection this year, is running behind in the polls and this should further hurt his popularity among men. One columnist wondered if Reid would beat his wife if he lost the election and became unemployed. Not only did he say that unemployed men were abusive, he said that unemployed women were not. REALITY: The comments of Harry Reid were elitist. Like most liberals he groups people by sex, race, religion and ethnic background and uses broad statements to classify them. Liberals just don't see people as individuals; they see them as groups for the government to manage.

RANGEL IN TROUBLE -- AGAIN - The House ethics committee found that Ways and Means Chairman Charlie Rangel violated House gift rules by accepting corporate-funded trips to the Caribbean through an organization called the Carib News. Rangel has a long history with the Caribbean. He owns rental property in Jamaica on which he did not report income for years. He also uses a rent controlled apartment meant for the poor as his office in New York. This is the guy that Nancy Pelosi chose to run the most powerful committee in the House.

A HOUSE IN CHAOS - Thursday, February 25th may go down as one of the weirdest days the House has ever seen. Under Nancy Pelosi, the House is usually in at least a mild state of chaos, but Politico.com termed the day a House in chaos. Besides dealing with the Rangel affair and the bungled Health Care summit, the House also, by accident we are told, passed a law that protects terrorists and allows for the criminal prosecution of our intelligence agents if they "mistreat" the terrorists. It was a wild day!

LAST KENNEDY LEAVES CONGRESS - Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) said on Friday, February 26th: "... my life is taking a new direction, and I will not be a candidate for reelection this year." With those words he announced that more than fifty consecutive years of having a member of the Kennedy family in office in either the House or Senate, had ended. Because of his long record of substance abuse problems, and his absences from session while in rehab clinics, it is difficult to tell if his decision was personal or politically based. After the election of Republican Scott Brown in Massachusetts, his seat was also looking vulnerable.

CULTURE AND RELIGION

GLOBAL WARMING MELT DOWN - A few years ago the "Global Warming" religion changed its name to the "Climate Change" religion. There was a problem with the old name because there was no real proof of any global warming. (Barack Obama thinks global warming exists and is caused by CO2, and since 90% of the CO2 on the planet comes from termites, perhaps President Obama plans a "war on termites?") Now we find evidence against global warming that is perhaps even more compelling than the "lost" data and the e-mails telling scientists to hide certain data.

The grandfather of the global warming church, Phil Jones of East Anglia University in the UK, has now admitted that there has been no significant global warming for 15 years. He further confessed to the BBC that the "hockey stick" chart was not accurate because there was a medieval warming period that was "equal" to the one we had in the 1980s and 1990s. (Actually "equal" is not true. The medieval warming period was a time of exceptional economic growth in Europe, with England as a major agricultural producer. There were actually grape vineyards throughout southern England that produced wine rivaling that of France.)

What will happen to all the global warming followers if their religion collapses? They will just find another reason to impose socialism on the world, which was the real goal all along. The whole global warming scheme was a ploy to "equalize" the nations and transfer wealth.

JANUARY WARMEST EVER? - "January, according to satellite (data), was the hottest January we've ever seen," said Prof. Neville Nicholls of Monash University's School of Geography and Environmental Science in Melbourne. "Last November was the hottest November we've ever seen, November-January as a whole is the hottest November-January the world has seen," he said of the satellite data record since 1979. Of course the satellite data is "adjusted" by the climatologists. Meanwhile Washington, DC had the greatest number of inches of snow ever, and Britain suffered through their coldest winter in thirty years.

MAYDAY IN AMERICA - The Religious Freedom Coalition is a sponsor of May Day 2010. On May 1st of this year, Christian leaders of all denominations who love God will humble themselves and pray at the Lincoln memorial in Washington, DC for our nation and its leaders. This event is not to impress the media or those in Washington, but to reach the heart of God. Thousands of people will join in Washington with leaders to pray for our nation. There are buses scheduled from many states including New York, Florida, Texas and Missouri. Please be a part of this great prayer movement if you can join us. To learn more go to www.mayday2010.org.

INTERNATIONAL

MORE CHRISTIANS KILLED IN IRAQ - "We don't want elections, we don't want representatives, we don't want our rights, we just want to be alive," said Father Baasil Abdul Noor, a priest at Mar Behnam Church in Northern Iraq. In February at least four Christians were murdered in the Mosul area. The latest was a 20-year-old student, Wissam George, an Assyrian Christian who was studying to be a teacher. Many of the Christians in Northern Iraq fled Baghdad and other southern areas seeking the simple right to live. Pray for the Christians of Iraq.

CHRISTIANS ATTACKED IN PAKISTAN - The United States sells advanced weapons including the F-16 fighter to Pakistan, a nation with hundreds of madrassas that teach jihad. Not a critical word is ever said by our government about the abuse of Christians in Pakistan. Last month, hundreds of Muslims attacked a Christian colony in the port city of Karachi, because a Christian was involved in a petty dispute with a Muslim fruit vendor there. Islam preaches "collective punishment," meaning that all Christians must be punished for any wrong done by one Christian toward a Muslim, even if the accusation is untrue.

THE UNFAIR TRIAL OF GEERT WILDERS - The trial of Geert Wilders continues in the Netherlands. Prosecutors want to put this Member of Parliament in jail for being critical of Islam. In Canada, Maclean's magazine ran an op-ed called "The absurd trial of Geert Wilders" and pointed out that this repression of free speech happens in Canada as well. There is no doubt that Geert Wilders is a victim of both political and religious persecution. If his right of free speech is denied and he is jailed, it will mark the end of freedom in the EU.

Prosecutors may want to jail Geert Wilders for insulting Islam, but his popularity is building. In February the Dutch government collapsed over the war in Afghanistan and a new election must be held. Currently Wilders' conservative-populist PVV (Party for Freedom) only has nine seats in the Parliament, but polls show that increasing to 24, just behind the largest party. Because it is a multi-party system, the outcome is unpredictable, but it is possible that Geert Wilders could be the next Prime Minister of the Netherlands. Meanwhile the Labor Party has published their posters and campaign literature in Arabic, which is sure to infuriate the Dutch population further.

The strangest thing about the whole Geert Wilders affair may be the position of the church. Church leaders in the Netherlands have called for parishioners not to vote for Geert Wilders saying that a vote for him is "un-Christian." One church leader said that Wilders and the PVV's views "contradict Christianity." How odd that a man who stands by Christ and believes that Islam should not take over Europe is being chastised by "Christian" leaders.

The trial of Member of Parliament Geert Wilders is not an issue just for the Netherlands. It is not only Geert Wilders that is on trial; it is Western civilization. If Muslims in Western nations can have people put in jail for "insulting" their religion, it is a statement of surrender of not only Christianity, but the secular West. The Geert Wilders trial is indeed the trial of the century and the outcome could affect the destiny of the world.

William J. Murray, Chairman