

How to Fix Health Care – Free the Market and Give Individuals Control – Part I

Why Government Control is not a Solution, but a Certain Path to Catastrophe

Democrats’ “Urgency” Fraud

There is not a health care “crisis” in the United States. Over 80% of Americans are happy with their health care and don’t want fundamental changes or a government takeover. According to Investors’ Business Daily polling, 91.6% of those who are insured are satisfied with their coverage.¹ A Gallup poll released on Sept. 1 2009 found that 87% of those with private insurance rate the quality of their health care as excellent or good. And with good reason: socialized medicine is known for its failures and nightmares, not for its successes. (No one has written a book called “Great Successes and Innovations of Socialized Medicine.”) In fact, health care was not cited as a major national problem until early 2009 when Democrats introduced radical change toward a socialized system.

This places the burden of proving why and what change is necessary squarely on the Democrats. Yet they shift it to Republicans. When republicans say “no” to laws that will nationalize health care, they are pilloried as ignorant, obstructionist slugs. By diverting attention away from the issues and their inability to prove the merit of their ideas, democrats get away with pretending urgency.

Republicans and conservatives should have the sense to say “no, you *prove* why we need change when the vast majority of us are happy, you first provide *evidence* (not just broad declarations) that your system will *in fact* be superior (instead of guessing), then we’ll consider talking about changing what right now is working better than any other system on the planet.” As long as 400,000 people a year are travelling to the U.S. for health care² they can’t get in their own country or other countries with socialized systems, don’t tell Republicans they are the party of “no.” One thing is sure; democrats are the party of “guess.” They attempted to hurry their dramatic takeover through without having to provide any evidence that their plan will actually work.

A sound reason to doubt the wisdom of Democrat health care reform proposals is their overzealous and dramatic insistence that this must be done now or there will be never be a way to solve these problems (“14,000 lose their health insurance every day”). With apocalyptic rhetoric, slogans, and hysteria (as opposed to substance) they ridiculously insist this is our last chance to solve an immediate health care crisis. Yet, the major provisions of H.R. 3200 and Senate Bill 1796 aren’t even set to take effect until 2013 (so, what exactly is the rush, again?). Conveniently, only *after* the 2012 election cycle will the country be able to witness the impact of this government takeover. In this manner the Democrat Congress and the Administration intentionally escape accountability at the voting booth for their actions. By the time Americans suffer and assess the negative effects of this proposed legislation (aside from the tax increases, which will take effect immediately), the President and two-thirds of senators will have concluded their re-election campaigns, and will have successfully avoided re-election debate about the impact of their health care debacle.³

"If Obama candidly said he is trying to put America on the path to government-run health care, it would excite exactly the sort of massive national grassroots opposition needed to kill his plan. So what Obama is doing is paving a one-way street to a socialized medicine while expressly denying he is doing so -- and while accusing those who point out what he is doing of being untruthful."

--columnist Terence Jeffrey

Not only are democrats in full false alarm mode, they are (in July 2009) deliberately concealing pertinent information about budget figures from the public, to avoid further loss of support for socialized medicine schemes. If the public realizes how bad the actual budget (spending) numbers are, support for the healthcare takeover plan will wither. Their political strategy has always been to prevent the public from having time to stop and think about it, to get it passed before the public was fully awakened.

Such tactics are clear evidence that they're very nervous and uncertain about the prospect of "getting it done." Nancy Pelosi's machine is busy in the back rooms strong-arming (threatening) democrat doubters and making them deals they can't refuse (committee assignments, etc.) to buy their votes, and force the abandonment of their principles and common sense.

When congressional democrats, and the President, start accusing republicans of scare-mongering about socialism it's a fair bet that it's the democrats who are actually scare-mongering to avoid a substantive public discussion. And so it was in June and July 2009 as democrats Pelosi, Durbin, Shumer, and Obama insisted repeatedly that [paraphrasing] "we don't have time for discussion (aka republicans' delay tactics), we must act now, or the sky is going to fall and the American health care system will sink into an abyss from which it will never be possible to recover. We'll never be able to stop rising health care costs if we stop now to listen and discuss."

What a disingenuous load of nonsense! It's enraging to witness these democrats condescend from their perches inside Capitol Hill talking to America's citizens as they would ignorant children. They make absurd, sweeping declarations of urgency as though they are fact; feigning drama, when it is perfectly clear that such claims are untrue. Only those with utter contempt for the American public's intelligence could do this. In fact, most Americans at least understand that *hurrying* to legislate a government fix (read: takeover) of 16-18% of the economy is certain to be one thing only: a series of very serious mistakes with very negative consequences. Health Care is the biggest industry in the United States and it affects 100 percent of the people. For Congress (which is mostly lawyers, not medical professionals, who by and large lack even a rudimentary understanding of how the U.S. medical system works) to presume to make legislative decisions of such gravity with just a few months of learning is terrifying.

If the health care problems at hand were anywhere near as serious, intractable, or desperate as democrats portray them, and democrats genuinely wanted to solve those problems (as opposed to just seizing control of more of the private sector while blithely telling the public they've done something different), why would they insist on passing legislation immediately that they then wait years to put it into effect? Why would they act like Chicken Little and force legislation no one understands through in mere weeks. They would do just the opposite.

The obvious and sensible approach to identifying and implementing thoughtful, effective solutions is taking the time *required* to get it right and conduct detailed, methodical congressional hearings and public debate, fully explore all critical issues and perspectives, and compare policy proposals to history's experience. If democrats were *really* interested in solving problems they would devise a fully transparent public *process* for identifying problems, objectives, reviewing and analyzing all relevant issues, answering all pertinent questions, and considering the studied expertise available (not just that of the lobbyists

Thursday, July 16, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell made the following statement [July 16] regarding testimony by the CBO Director that partisan health care proposals will increase costs:

"The Director of the Congressional Budget Office confirmed today what we have been saying for weeks: the health care spending plan that some are trying to rush through Congress would actually make things worse.

"Americans want reform that makes health care more affordable and accessible, not a so-called reform that leads to rising costs and a government takeover of the whole health care system. Americans saw what happened when some in Congress rushed through the trillion-dollar stimulus bill earlier this year. They don't want us to make the same mistakes on something as important and personal as health care.

"Today's CBO testimony should be a wake-up call. Instead of rushing through one expensive proposal after another, we should take the time we need to get things right—especially at a time when hundreds of thousands of Americans are losing jobs every month.

"What we're defending is the right of the American people to know what they're getting into: the exact details and the cost.

"We saw the consequences of carelessness on the stimulus bill. We rushed that, and Americans got burned. We must not make that mistake again."

drafting the bills for them). They would take into account the ideas and experience of all industry participants. They wouldn't exclude conservative expertise, but would fully and openly consider the merit of those views, those studies, and that compiled experience. They would encourage the public (voters) to understand *all* proposed solutions, not just the ones that involve government. They wouldn't shun or intimidate easy villains.

"I love these members that get up and say, 'Read the bill!' What good is reading the bill if it's a thousand pages and you don't have two days and two lawyers to find out what it means after you've read the bill?" – Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich)

Response:

"Perhaps Mr. Conyers has a point. A bill that seeks to reorder one-seventh of the nation's economy is probably too complex and convoluted for any single human being to fully comprehend and can't possibly capture all the unintended consequences of such sweeping changes. Maybe Mr. Conyers has latched on to the main reason why big government can't work and why less sweeping health care reform is in order." – Wall Street Journal Columnist **John Fund**

They would *want* to avoid making mistakes. They would persuade (and take the time to do what persuasion requires) rather than pound legislators into submission and induce public panic to obscure the details that an open debate would reveal. They would take small steps and carefully (and publicly) measure the results to ensure the effectiveness of the policy prescriptions. They would be honest about the failures of Medicare and Medicaid, and would avoid repeating them. They would shine a bright light on the country's medical care successes, protect and encourage them, and seek solutions drawing on mechanisms proven to succeed (e.g., Safeway's program).

Instead, they parade around spewing empty rhetorical sound bites like, "it's time," or "health insurance is a right." "The time is now," and "we must cover the uninsured" are insufficient arguments. What triggers the public's anger is the arrogance of a small group of politicians presuming (without consulting the public in advance, and then ignoring their calls to cease and desist) to meet secretly with special interests to decide who keeps what insurance, who will offer new insurance at what price, what the penalties will be for not conforming to the new regime, and how doctors will practice medicine.⁴

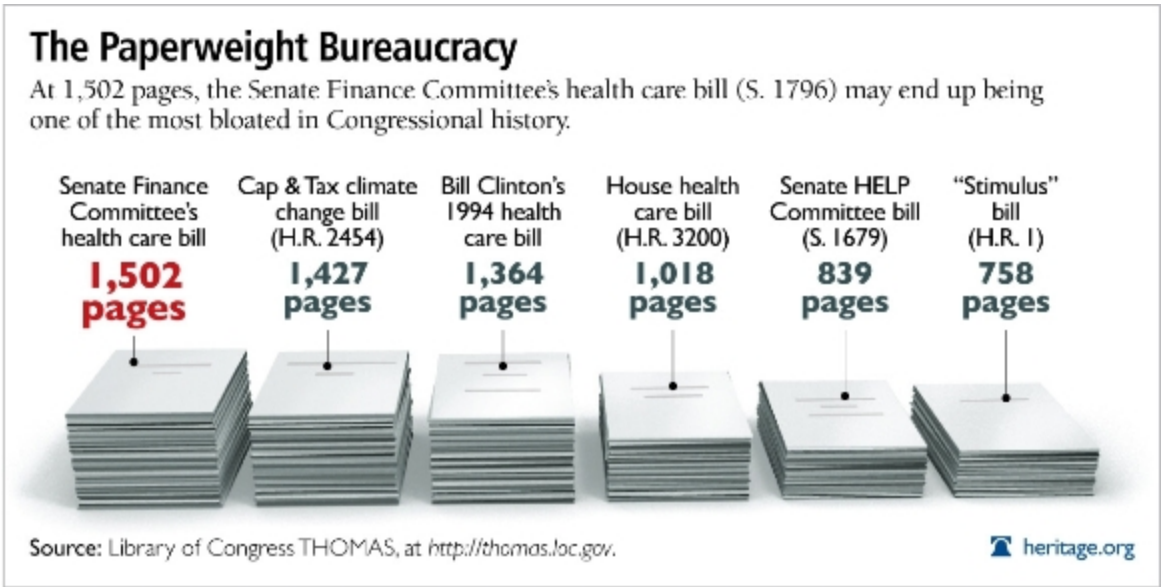
The American people are being "hustled" by Democrats. There is no sound reason for hurry and feigned desperation, other than that they don't want a debate, especially one carrying on into an election year. Since Democrats are proposing the largest social spending program in American history, sober, detailed scrutiny is essential. But the Democrats in DC must act aggressively now before dialog gets started, or their program will fail. This being true, it *should* fail. Shame on Democrats for fraudulently squelching public debate. They can't really have the country's health interests at heart.

Democrats are the only ones for whom government health care is urgent. Democrats are pushing this now, not because the American public has demanded it, and not because there is any urgent suffering or real hardship that must be stopped, but because they know this is their one, and perhaps last, opportunity to "get it done." They know that they can only get it done while they hold the White House and majorities in both houses of Congress. They know this is a fleeting opportunity to permanently expand their power, and achieve the transformation they've sought for 80 years. That's *their* urgency, not the country's.

[Democrats Can Only Pass Their Health Care Takeover by Squelching Debate, Burying Opponents, and Scuttling Public Discourse](#)

Today's Congress, led by Pelosi, has developed a treacherous habit. It produces and votes on bills routinely exceeding 500 or 1000 pages, which Congress hasn't read and citizens haven't had the opportunity to read or opine on, something the Founders couldn't have conceived of.⁵ The \$1.6 trillion Senate health care bill is *only* a mere 615 pages. [H.R. 3200, the House health care bill](#) introduced on July 15, 2009, was only 1,018 pages. It's replacement, October 29 2009 1,990-page [Affordable Health Care for America Act](#) (H.R. 3962) has been expanded to over 2,000 pages. As written, H.R. 3200 and 3962 are *incomprehensible* to even the most educated and experienced Americans. Max Baucus' Senate Bill 1796, the Senate Finance Committee's version, is 1,502 pages,

and wasn't even written when it was voted on and passed (the Finance Committee voted on an [abridged summary version](#)).



These massive volumes don't hold clear, unambiguous wisdom, much less thoughtful policy distillations, but are instead intended to deceive; they are little more than repositories of buried re-election pork put there by politicians who lack the character or courage to openly discuss public policy, or to write bills that can be readily understood by average

Americans. Baucus' committee voted down an amendment to require full CBO scoring and release of the bill online for all Americans to see 72 hours before a floor vote, and the committee killed the amendment by a 12 to 11 vote. They decided to prevent citizens from seeing their work before it was voted on because "it's too complicated for citizens to understand." Apparently citizens, and their understanding of laws, are irrelevant to legislators.

A separate 72-hour bill introduced by Rep. Brian Baird, a Washington Democrat, and Rep. Greg Walden, an Oregon Republican, with many bi-partisan sponsors, has languished in committee since June, 2009. It would require all non-emergency legislation to be posted online, in final form, at least 72 hours before a floor vote. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has refused to allow the bill to be scheduled for a floor vote.⁶ Refusing to publish such high-stakes proposed legislation (i.e., concealing it) before voting on it is contemptible, and insults the American public. Those refusing really shouldn't be in office.

Imagine if you had grocery insurance. You wouldn't care how much food cost. Why shop around? If someone else were paying 80 percent, you'd buy the most expensive cuts of meat. Prices would skyrocket. That's what health insurance does to medical care. Patients rarely even ask what anything costs. Doctors often don't know. ... Patients rarely ask, 'Is that MRI really necessary? Is there a cheaper place?' We consume without thinking. By contrast, in areas of medicine where most patients pay their own way, service gets better, while prices fall. ... This shouldn't be a surprise.

— John Stossel, ABC's "20/20" co-anchor

The Senate's Baucus bill was passed out of the Finance Committee without ever drafting the actual legislative language, and without first securing a CBO analysis of the actual legislative language. They voted on a summary version only.

Congress now routinely operates in secret and deliberately obscures its activities so that it can advance legislators' interests rather than the public interest. These unread, unintelligible bills and the shameful practice of passing them mock notions of transparency and our founding purpose and principles. Congress promises transparency, but *never* delivers it.

Democrat Judiciary Committee Chair John Conyers' (D-Mich) said all we need to know about Democrats' interest in reading bills: "I love these members that get up and say, 'Read the bill!' What good is reading the bill if it's a thousand pages and you don't have two days and two lawyers to find out what it means after you've read the bill?"⁷ It is Mr. Conyers' official policy to *not* read legislation *before* voting on it. Worse, he openly admits that his staff lawyers don't have time to read proposed legislation either. So for *Conyers*, no one in his camp knows what legislation says *before he votes on it*.

What, exactly, is it that we pay Mr. Conyers, other congressmen, and their staffs to do? Do we pay them to ignore substance and hurry? Isn't it their job to deliberate for as long as it takes to make sure they understand what they're voting on? Isn't that the least we can expect of them? Actually reading legislation, i.e., knowing and understanding laws and their affect constituents' lives, is representatives' most fundamental responsibility. If the bill is too complicated for someone of his stature (and with his resources) to read and understand in two days, then it's too complicated to be imposed on citizens as law. Maybe they should do the responsible thing, declare their objection, and not vote on it at all. Mr. Conyers and others like him fundamentally betray their position and the Nation. If they, in their arrogance, see no point in first understanding what they vote on, or first publishing for citizen review what they're voting on, then *they are unaccountable*, and recklessness reigns.

The details matter, Mr. Conyers, because in this case they give government power to decide who gets medical treatment and who doesn't, who lives and who dies, who's going to control one-sixth of the U.S. economy, and whether shifting that control away from the private sector will advance or undermine prosperity. What legislative details are more important than that?

This callous disregard for substance is legislative malpractice. Not reading these health care bills (and knowing *exactly* what's in them) before voting on them is a fraud and a disgrace. It should be grounds for immediate removal from office. It is an abuse of power and authority, and an abrogation of their duties as the peoples' representatives.

"Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people, who have a right, from the frame of their nature, to knowledge, as their great Creator, who does nothing in vain, has given them understandings, and a desire to know; but besides this, they have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge; I mean, of the characters and conduct of their rulers."

--John Adams, Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law, 1756

Town Hall Meltdown – Democrats pushing health care agendas are not moved by rational discourse, and can't be convinced they are mistaken. They realize that if they can't just run over their opponents, they're going to lose.⁸ Instead of *listening* when American citizens at Norman Rockwell-like gatherings object to or disagree with what big-government is doing, Democrats get defensive and respond by attacking, contemptuously demonizing, and insulting those citizens. Barack Obama (who is the *President* of the United States), Nancy Pelosi and their troops, true to form as disciples of Saul Alinsky, declare that these [ordinary citizens](#) assembling in civic forums are mind-numbered robots participating in mob action, expressing "manufactured" outrage, after being herded by aggressive right-wing loons and insurance industry organizers. Obama, Pelosi, et al., then join forces with the media to ensure that the debate is changed from the merit and consequence of their policy ideas to the protesters' conduct (as they falsely depict it). Such posturing by the Administration, coupled with an increasingly authoritarian style of rhetoric, takes enormous gall and is an outrage; forgetting themselves, Democrats look desperate and unintelligent. When elected officials are this dismissive of and disrespectful to their electorate (citizens who are justly angry and exercising their constitutional

rights and duties freely), and overtly stifle and repress legitimate peaceful dissent by casting it as "diatribes of right-wing crazies," the remedy is to promptly un-elect them.

Americans justly bristle when their independence is threatened; they are justly angry when told that an unaccountable government is going to take charge of their lives. They are rightly enraged when politicians don't have sufficient answers to real questions about serious concerns. Americans have an *absolute right* to assemble

and protest their grievances before their government; they are free to do this without suffering the indignity of being mocked, publicly humiliated, accused of fomenting violence, and held in contempt by those they have given the *privilege* of public office. Organizers have an absolute right to freely organize and advocate such dissent without government interference. The government exists to protect citizens' freedoms, not interfere with, or criticize, their exercise of constitutional rights. Democrats know this well, but are of the same mind only when *they* are the protestors; they quickly forget democracy's voice and apply an astonishingly blatant double standard to those who oppose *their* policies. Because independence is in our DNA, and we're steeped in a unique liberty tradition, nothing is more "American" than revolting against misused and intrusive government authority. In fact, it is every citizen's duty to raise their voice, and yell if necessary, to ensure that their representatives know how serious and important an issue is or the gravity of their objection to a public servant's policy position. The First Amendment doesn't limit speech to "courteous" or "inoffensive" or "quiet" words or tone for a reason. Public animation over important issues is an essential tool of democracy. If we fail as free people to exercise our liberty and *effectively* make ourselves heard, the result is inevitable: we get bad government, dangerous policy, and politicians like Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid remain in office incrementally chipping away at our freedom.

The very Democrats who were desperately rushing the legislation through Congress before the August recess, and again in September and October, deliberately seeking to avoid any substantive discussion or review, now argue that those who object to the legislation at town halls and in Washington on September 12 should quiet down and let us all have a calm, thoughtful discussion. Now that citizens have actually figured out what's there, Democrats are asking for the "calm discussion" they wanted to deny us in the first place. Hypocrisy just doesn't get any worse than this.

The "community-organizer-in-chief" can't rightly complain when others organize the community in opposition to his attempts to "transform" the country. Democrats' have allocated *billions* in stimulus (taxpayer) money to ACORN community organizers to organize, protest, and agitate (while this may be a dead issue now, Democrats have been doing this for decades to serve their partisan interests and will find a way to continue). Yet these same Democrats in government are now livid (scared) that private citizens are attending town hall meetings and angrily speaking their minds (which is, of course, the essence of democracy). Democrats and their media comrades are deliberately stifling this activity, as though it is somehow offensive and impermissible; as though they are unaware the First Amendment applies to *everyone*. It is laughable to witness Democrats (who are expert protestors and organizers – e.g. ACORN, Move-On.org, etc.), and the media, who studiously ignore leftist thugs who commonly smash cities, engage in such rank hypocrisy. To snitch on this "fishy" white paper email flag@whitehouse.gov (Barack Obama's address for reporting "disinformation" about "The One's" policies – just like neighborhood watchers in Communist, fascist or other totalitarian regimes).⁹ Unfortunately Congress is now ruled by Nancy Pelosi's liberal minority, and these fascist tendencies will continue to bloom unless they are stopped.

In response to legitimate grassroots protests against H.R. 3200 and similar bills (which protestors have read and strongly object to), the Administration (under the direction of the community-organizer-in-chief) has unleashed its own fabricated and highly-organized counter-protests, bussing them in with union-printed signs and *bullhorns* to shout down, harass, and intimidate their opposition (how convenient that ACORN, move-on.org, and unions stand by ready to do this). The President himself threatens those who challenge him ("we will call you out"), and calls their legitimate concerns "misinformation," "false," "demagoguery," "distortion," "lies," or "tall tales." Nancy

"[I]f the public are bound to yield obedience to laws to which they cannot give their approbation, they are slaves to those who make such laws and enforce them."

--Candidus in the Boston Gazette, 1772

"For anyone who missed it, we witnessed in recent weeks one of the broadest misuses of congressional power in recent history.

Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and his colleague Bart Stupak are openly engaged in a campaign of harassment and intimidation against 52 of America's largest health insurance providers.

They seek nothing less than to silence all voices opposed to their government-run health care proposals."

Steve Forbes

Pelosi tightly embraces HCAN (Health Care for America NOW), which publishes an instructional memo [Fight Back against the Right](#), directing health care takeover proponents to attend town hall meetings and disrupt them, especially those where conservatives are in attendance. Senator Max Baucus in late September directs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to send a letter to Humana, Inc., the primary private provider to the Medicare Advantage program (which allows consumers to work with *private* insurers), directing Humana to cease and desist from sending letters to its beneficiaries advising them that they may see significant cuts to their benefits and services if Obamacare becomes law (even though the Congressional Budget Office *agrees* with Humana). This is government attempting to control the dialog by intimidating private companies. Citizen engagement is being chilled by government monitoring of their exercise of speech rights. This U.S. government is now actively, deliberately organizing protests of one group of citizens against another, and shutting down corporate communication that warns of the results expected from government action on health care. Until this point in history this has only been standard operating procedure in countries with left-wing governments (like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez). The ACLU is MIA, of course.

Mr. Obama has stripped the Presidency of its dignity by ordering his troops to "push back twice as hard," declaring and implementing a well-coordinated speech war on dissenting American citizens (one can only imagine the outrage if a Republican president had done this). If Democrats' health care takeover plan had any merit, they'd welcome the opportunity to listen to citizen complaints, and then explain their programs and educate citizens about exactly how they will benefit and why the programs will succeed in attaining *stated* objectives; they would persuade instead of sending out ACORN and union thugs with marching orders on how to disrupt, intimidate, and interfere with those opposing ObamaCare, and giving congressional Democrats detailed instructions on how to proceed, and on how to close their meetings to genuine dissent. The fact that they choose instead to go to war with the public says it all: they won't be held accountable by constituents, they don't care about citizens' concerns, their plan doesn't have any merit, and they can't explain it or defend it. These are reason enough to permanently shelve it. If they don't shelve it, they need to be un-elected.

Referring to protestors at town hall meetings: "I think they're Astroturf ... you be the judge. They're carrying swastikas and symbols like that to a town meeting on healthcare."

It's almost immoral what [private insurers] are doing. Of course they've been immoral all along in how they have treated the people that they insure. ... They are the villains in this."

--House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA)

To make their intolerance of free speech in the United States perfectly clear, in October 2009 the Obama Administration launched *false*, cynical, disparaging, and manipulative direct attacks on Fox News, its only real critic in the media, in an all out attempt to permanently discredit and marginalize it, and thus stop the spread of its "criticism" (aka non-sycophantic observations and actually balanced reporting). This is overt censorship. Declaring that Fox is "not a real news organization," and "a wing of the Republican party," the administration actively encouraged the other media (those that don't criticize the Administration) to ignore Fox News and disregard any stories originating there. In order to be a "legitimate" news organization you apparently have to behave the way the Administration wants you to.

This is a transparent attempt to silence an entire organization for its "views," a full-forced indictment without any specific charges of a breach of journalistic standards. The entire country should be outraged at this remarkable abuse of political power. It's as though the Administration believes the First Amendment doesn't exist for those who disagree with the President. They are trying to destroy anyone who challenges or opposes them or their agenda. Fox News, the insurance industry, tea party protestors, conservative talk radio, the Chamber of Commerce; who's next?

That an Administration openly seeks complete media compliance, and is utterly contemptible toward those who disagree with it, and wants to silence the dissemination of information (which is all Fox News does, albeit effectively, and albeit dissent from Obama's "cult of personality") is a very bad sign for the underpinnings of liberty. That the administration *believes* it has the right or the ability to squelch an entire media organization on the broadest of simple-minded generalizations is a clear warning to the country of emerging statism. Only an incompetent or cowardly administration needs to make a media outlet an enemy. Any administration that has to demonize its opponents, and squelch opposing information, in order to win a policy argument is refusing to engage in the policy argument. And they lack the ability to prevail through persuasion and rational discourse. Look up fascism. Then look up totalitarianism.

Endnotes

¹ **Investors Business Daily**, "The Voters Option," August 19, 2009,

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=503893&Ntt=The+Voters+Option>

² **John Shadegg And Pete Hoekstra**, "How to Insure Every American," The Wall Street Journal, September 5, 2009,

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204731804574390683768374864.html?mod=djemEditorialPage>

³ **Robert A. Book, PhD.**, "If it's so urgent, why would two elections pass before health reform takes effect?," The Heritage Foundations, October 19, 2009,

<http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed101909a.cfm>

⁴ **John C. Goodman**, "Explaining the Town Hall Protests," The Wall Street Journal, August 21, 2009,

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204884404574362333085067364.html?mod=djemEditorialPage>

⁵ The Declaration of Independence was written in just 1,337 words, the U.S. Constitution was only 4,440 words, and the Bill of Rights less than 600 words.

⁶ **John Fund**, "Congress Needs a 72-Hour Waiting Period," The Wall Street Journal, September 26, 2009,

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204488304574434942340517648.html?mod=djemEditorialPage>

⁷ **Rep. John Conyers** (D-Mich), Remarks to National Press Club Luncheon, July 24, 2009.

⁸ **Newt Gingrich**, comments to Sean Hannity, August 6, 2009.

⁹ The White House Web site brazenly asks: "If you get an e-mail or see something on the web about health insurance reform that seems fishy — send it to flag@whitehouse.gov."