

Dear Friend:

Are you ready to GET REAL? The state of Reality is that place beyond the fog and on the other side of nonsense. I live there. I'm here to invite you to join me in some **rational thinking**, a state of mind that is missing in much of today's political and social discourse. I hope you'll enjoy the discussion.

Hey, let's talk about the tw**in Ls** of American political life--the **Liberals** and the **Looney Tunes** playing out in both chambers of our bicameral legislature in Washington, D.C. The problem with **Liberals** is obvious and getting more so each day. I'll explain about **Looney** stuff a few paragraphs down.

Let's begin with the **Liberals** who control the national agenda. Here in recent days I've received any number of e-messages about the **contraceptive coverage** requirements of ObamaCare. Most of these e-mails are filled with rage against both the plan and the President; and some of them have asked me about several aspects of the original directive put forth by NARAL's favorite **Liberal**, the Secretary of HHS, one Kathleen Sebelius. Some folks opine that the administration has taken a direct frontal assault on the First Amendment. I've even read some that suppose there is a plot to bring down Christendom. Others think that the President is a Communist and yet others continue to assert that he was born someplace... anyplace...except where his birth certificate says he was born (Hawaii). So, while the Republicans are dragged back into the social issues thicket, I guess I have some TOTALLY DIFFERENT perspectives than many of my fellow travelers.

In the first place, the far-right tried (and succeeded) in framing this as if the administration was forcing abortion coverage, when in reality the administration's proposal was all about CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE (not abortion coverage which is outlawed by federal statute). Sure, there is the "**morning-after pill**"-- a drug intended to disrupt ovulation or fertilization, and thus prevent pregnancy, like any other contraceptives. Abortion, my Friend, means ending a pregnancy. The morning-after-pill prevents a pregnancy; and thus, in some cases, averts an abortion down the road by some who have no regard for life in the womb. So...this whole ridiculous bru-ha-ha was all about contraceptives, which 90% of Catholic women use. It seems to this conservative that if it is socially desirable for women to have access to contraceptive health, then the administration was partially in the right. It's mistake--brought on by Sebelius the Crusader--was to try to FORCE it. Had Obama and his minions approached this issue as a strong, strong recommendation--but, not an ultimatum--for all health plans, then the debate would've shifted away from Obama to the health plans themselves and their prospective clients. The White House could've paid me for this advice, but alas, they didn't ask.

Now, let's turn to my second perspective on all this. As much as I was sorta non-plused by the original directive, I am sorta outraged at the retreat position announced last Friday by the President--a typical Liberal position that contraceptives would be "free," because the health-care insurance providers would pay for it. Just who in hell is Barack Hussein Obama to order private industry to provide a cost-product for free?? Now..ya know...I have been the conservative at the woodpile who has defended the President of not being a "socialist," but, by damn, he proved me wrong! This "free contraceptive directive" is the stuff of a socialist, welfare state. Again, had he not listened to his HHS Secretary, he could've taken a conciliatory tone with the industry and suggested that they may want to consider free contraception for certain clients. Thataway, they--the industry--would've made the "cost-bearer decision" of whether or not to load their costs onto the rest of us in higher insurance premiums. That's the way America works--not by socialist fiat. The White House could've paid me for this advice, but alas, they didn't ask.

Now, to my final point about all this. As I mentioned above, I received all kinds of e-mail filled with rage about the strong-armed tactics of the Administration, and I took time to answer some of them. I think George Will must've read my answers, because he repeated some of them on last Sunday's **This Week with George Stephanopoulos (ABC)**. ***"This is what Liberals do, there should be no surprises here,"*** paraphrased the conservative, Will. And, that's exactly what the Prof. said last week in some of my responses. Why people are all surprised and perplexed and confused about this latest Obama flap should surprise no one. **THAT'S WHAT LIBERALS DO**. Dogs shake off the water when they climb outa the pond, rabbits head for the brush when confronted by humans, and **Liberals** have no end to the

government solutions they wish to impose. It's in their DNA, like with dogs and rabbits. Nothing, nothing, Obama did last week surprised the Professor. It's in their DNA, Friend--they literally can't help themselves--like trying to keep an owl from hooting at night. So...those of you who choose to be "with it" and vote for "hope and change;" well, you shouldn't have been surprised either. Expect more of the same if you repeat your mistake again in November !! Now, to the **Loonies!**

What is gawd's name is going on with national "leadership"--both parties--in the Congress? Both parties have succumbed to some **Looney** idea that the country will be better off with a plan to extend the payroll tax break and, extend unemployment benefits, and reverse scheduled cuts to doctors who treat MediCare seniors, all at a cost of \$160 billion. It gets even **loonier!** Republicans have caved-in to Democrat demands that it not be paid for. No cuts in anything else to come up with the \$160 billion. In a sonnet much quoted on Valentine's day, Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote: "*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.*" What a wonderful segue: "**How much do I detest this legislation? Let me count the ways.**"

1) Let's begin with the first tragedy, staged a year ago: THERE SHOULD BE NO PAYROLL TAX REDUCTIONS. The payroll tax pays for Social Security benefit payments, and Friend, Social Security is broke! Not only broke--bleeding! So...let's get past the Liberal, pollyanna bullshit about trust funds and actuarial numbers.... we're talkin' REALLY, REALLY BROKE, as in NOTHIN' IN THE BOX...OR THE TRUST FUND...OR HOWEVER YOU WANT THE SMOKE & MIRRORS TO COVER IT.

In November, 2011, Andrew Biggs, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, and former principal deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration, said Social Security is already running on a deficit.. "Even without the payroll tax cuts, revenues cannot keep up with the flood of baby boomers who are retiring at the rate of about 10,000 per day," he said. (posted November 30, 2011, on the ABC News blog).

Here's what the Social Security Board of Trustees had to say in their **A SUMMARY OF THE 2011 ANNUAL REPORTS:**

"Social Security expenditures exceeded the program's non-interest income in 2010 for the first time since 1983. The \$49 billion deficit last year (excluding interest income) and \$46 billion projected deficit in 2011 are in large part due to the weakened economy and to downward income adjustments that correct for excess payroll tax revenue credited to the trust funds in earlier years. This deficit is expected to shrink to about \$20 billion for years 2012-2014 as the economy strengthens. After 2014, cash deficits are expected to grow rapidly as the number of beneficiaries continues to grow at a substantially faster rate than the number of covered workers. Through 2022, the annual cash deficits will be made up by redeeming trust fund assets from the General Fund of the Treasury. After 2022, trust fund assets will be redeemed in amounts that exceed interest earnings until trust fund reserves are exhausted in 2036, one year earlier than was projected last year." (direct quote from Soc. Sec. Trustees website. Underlining is for emphasis in next paragraph)

Now, reference the underlined sentences in the paragraph next above. That my Friend, is a **Looney Tune**, otherwise known as "government-speak." It appears that maybe there are liquid assets in that old trust fund ("the lock box"), for the government to use for benefit payments, doesn't it. That's why the statement is a **Looney Tune** because the trust fund exists on paper only--there's not one dime in it! Everytime the Congress spent money it didn't have on cockamamie programs over the last many years, it simply took the Social Security money and wrote the trust fund an IOU, a worthless note (aka known as a "trust fund asset" in government-speak). So...the \$49 billion Soc. Sec. deficit in 2010...the 2011 projected deficit of \$46 billion...and all the deficits to come until 2036 (see above) are all coming from general treasury funds that are insufficient to pay the general obligations of the government. Bottom line: We'll either borrow the money for our payroll tax reduction foolishness; or perhaps Bernanke will just plug in a few more printing presses at the mint.

2) To the GOP "leadership" in the House: Where have you stuck your head? Why isn't the Tea Party screaming bloody murder? Why have all of you-- Boehner, Cantor, McConnell, the whole kit & kaboodle--rolled over like wimp puppy dogs to the pressure? You guys took a stand a month or so ago that any extension of these giveaways would require spending cuts someplace else to come up with the \$160 billion. **Why is that not the only sane policy in light of the red ink tsunami, or is it back to "electioneering as usual"--even for Tea Partiers--now that it's 2012 ?** Yep, Minority Leader Steny Hoyer blew your cover right off your hypocritical faces when he observed (yesterday): *"My initial reaction is the Republicans caved because they believe that the public believes that we ought to move forward on this."* Yep, you guys caved to get re-elected. Never mind the high principles that you espoused when you captured the House back in 2010.

Because a badly informed and spoiled public wants this--is that why you gave up? You Congressional Republicans show less guts and leadership than does the Greek ruling party and cabinet who stand up to riots in the streets every day to accomplish what needs to be done to salvage their economy. It's high time to decide that control of the House (or Senate, for that matter) is not as important as standing on your correct principles, taking the heat, facing the American people straight up, and explaining in plain and direct terms (a' la Reagan) why the country cannot afford any more gimmicks, and short-term solutions, and relief that's unaffordable. Com' on...get some manhood and guts, Grand Old Party, stand your ground, and take the case directly to the American people. They see the riots in Greece, the crippling strikes in Italy and Spain, and above all, they--the American people--want none of that nonsense. Instead they demand SOMEBODY to talk to them!

3) And lastly, the legislation about to be passed reverses MediCare cuts to doctors who treat seniors. These are the cuts that amounted to \$500 billion over a ten-year period and formed the foundation for ObamaCare being solvent and not a drag on the economy. For some reason you Republicans are going along with this without pointing out to the American people the double-talk that is going on here--i.e. you're allowing Pres. Obama to get by with the hoax of ObamaCare, ESPECIALLY when many conservative commentators at the time (like me) warned that the doctor's cuts would be restored when the "coast was clear" and nobody was looking. That the financial underpinnings of ObamaCare is a sham, a hoax, and a fraud on the American people is a fact which the Republicans are apparently going to pass on.

Don't get me wrong, dear Reader. I'm all for restoring the payments to doctors that are set to expire in 2014. Heavens knows the docs already take a beating on their MediCare patients. But, the fact that the President played fast and loose with this issue is ripe for the plucking and the GOP is hopelessly remiss in not "educating" Americans on just what happened to them in the name of "hope and change."

Prof. Marvin

P.S. Don't agree with me about the true characterization of the "**morning-after pill**" (above)?? Well, don't persist in ignorance, and go check out some credible source. Go ahead. Do it. Dare you. Don't fume at me if you don't know what you're talking about.

P.P.S. Most Americans will get by just fine, thank you, by paying the full 6.2% payroll tax. They paid it up to a year ago, they can pay it again. This past Christmas shopping season broke all records, and many a shopper thanked the President for the extra money for extra gifts. I just saw that Valentine's Day purchasing (i.e. flowers, candy, dinners, gifts, etc.) was way up over last year. Huh....wonder why? The ghetto kids broke down the doors of shoe stores when the \$200 Air Jordan Nikes came out. Hmmmm....thought everybody was so destitute and broke? When the cell phone companies come out with some new gizzy-whizzy, the public waits for blocks to be first in the door at Best Buy, or wherever. I watched some of those folks, and by golly, their wasn't a millionaire or country clubber in the crowd--they all looked like good ole wage-earning, middle-class Americans to me!

In short, we Americans still have it better than most everybody else in the world. Plenty of good food and feasting for 99% of Americans at Thanksgiving and Christmas, flat-screen HDTVs for most folks living

under the poverty level, roof and heat sheltering all but the homeless (a different breed of cat not touched by any reductions in the payroll tax). I could go on and on....but I choose to ask you, dear Reader, why do we Americans persist in this self-infliction of economic harm by crap like a payroll tax reduction? If it makes no sense, it probably has no sense to it.