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Who's to Blame for Obamacare? Two Conservatives!

BYLINE: Mark Skousen**SECTION:** IN THE NEWS**LENGTH:** 449 words**HIGHLIGHT:** It's easy to blame the sixty Democrat senators for the health care bill, but two conservatives are guilty, too.

This week the Senate grinch stole Christmas. The Obama Nation is getting Obamacare. It's easy to blame the sixty Democrats, as the Wall Street Journal does, for "the worse bill ever."

It solemnly declares: "These 60 Democrats are creating a future of epic increases in spending, taxes and command--and control regulation." True enough. But what's the root cause of this permanent disaster? Sorry, friends, but it's not the Democrats, nor the American people who elected them. The real culprits are two Republicans who ran the show the previous eight years: George W. Bush and his "master political strategist" Karl Rove. If it weren't for these two fools in the White House, the Democrats wouldn't have sixty senators, including a professional comedian from Minnesota, to close off debate and ram down our throats a bill worse than Hillary Care. The fact is that the Bush & Rove comedy act pushed through a litany of ruinous government policies that led to the lowest approval numbers in history: -- the undeclared and costly War in Iraq and its stepchild the unconstitutional Patriot Act. -- the monstrous No Child Left Behind Act that dramatically increased federal intervention in private education. -- the Prescription Drug Act that gave the American people another benefit-corrupted entitlement and unfunded liability. -- large and growing deficits and national debt. -- the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, largely due to their failure to reform government-sponsored agencies Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. -- large and growing deficits and national debt (according to the **Cato Institute's** latest report, George W. Bush was the biggest spender since LBJ!). The supply-side tax cuts were probably the only major piece of legislation that Bush/Rove deserve credit for, but even then, they blundered in not making the tax cuts permanent. So now even if the Republicans take back Capitol Hill in the 2010 elections, all President Obama has to do is veto an extension of the Bush tax cuts, and voila, taxes will increase automatically. In short, we are paying a heavy price for the "compassionate conservatism" of Bush/Rove. Once Obamacare becomes law, like Medicare and other "Great Society" programs, it will never end. We will be stuck with national health care for the rest of our lives. And how are Bush and Rove rewarded? Fortunately, we aren't seeing much of George Bush, who is quietly ensconced in his new digs in Texas. The tragedy is Karl Rove, who ironically has been rewarded by conservatives. He's treated like a triumphant general on Fox News almost every night and was signed on as a regular columnist in the prestigious Wall Street Journal. Shame.

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