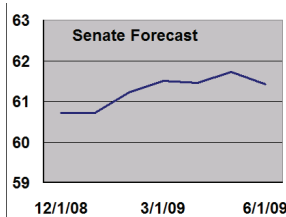


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Greetings from Washington, D.C.

by: [DocJess](#)

Wed Jun 17, 2009 at 09:00:00 AM EDT

I'm here to attend the Cato Institute Conference on Health Care Reform. You can see the agenda [here](#). You may find it incongruous that I would be attending a conference put on by a think tank dedicated to the free market, with speakers who will likely be diametrically opposed to my own personal views on health care reform.

While I disagree with Cato's positions on many issues, I respect the institution. While Cato does not consider itself to be "conservative" or "Republican", they certainly drift in the rightward direction. However, it's the old way of looking at things: fiscally conservative, but libertarian on many issues. The scholars at the Cato Institute do their research and get their facts right (which is independent of opinions). There are a lot of smart people there, and you know how I feel about that.

Further, for many years, the Institute has been publishing pocket copies of the Constitution (with the Declaration of Independence included.) My dad and I order in bulk. My personal copy is dog-eared. My dad gave it to me when I left for college, and I've carried it around with me ever since.

I will have my journalist hat on all day: I will listen, take good notes, and consider what they say. When I listen to "the other side" talk "reform" the rationale never makes sense to me. If anyone can explain **why** there is a good reason for something other than Single Payer, this would be the group to ferret it out.

[DocJess](#) :: Greetings from Washington, D.C.

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Greetings from Washington, D.C. | 2 comments

Have a good time!! (0.00 / 0)

The CATO institute is a good institute and healthy debate is always good!

by: [bonncarus](#) @ Wed Jun 17, 2009 at 10:09:53 AM CDT

Cato Institute = Neoliberalism (0.00 / 0)

Be very careful with the Cato Institute's seemingly "intelligent" people. The keyword with Cato and many think tanks is "neoliberalism". It is no surprise that they would be handing out free Constitutions as they ground their ideology in "freedom" talk, but never place the idea of freedom into context beyond the emotional responses to the term. This is the ideology and mechanism that brought Reagan and Thatcher to power (for a complete understanding of the movement see Dr. David Harvey's "A Brief History of Neoliberalism"). The whole movement of Neoliberalism and its "privatization", "Free-Market" and "trickle-down" ideas were developed out of think-tanks. When these think tanks were developed, the left was caught off-guard without its own institutions.

Furthermore, this ideology is the one that has lead us to our current economic troubles, so anything that they can possibly argue is misguided in the face of history. The implementation of neoliberal policies, while advocating for the elimination of class, has resulted in the reimposition of class with the redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich (rich get richer and the poor get poorer). There's needs to be pressure on that ideology to face the reality of the world.

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